Hulk Hogan's Vow:
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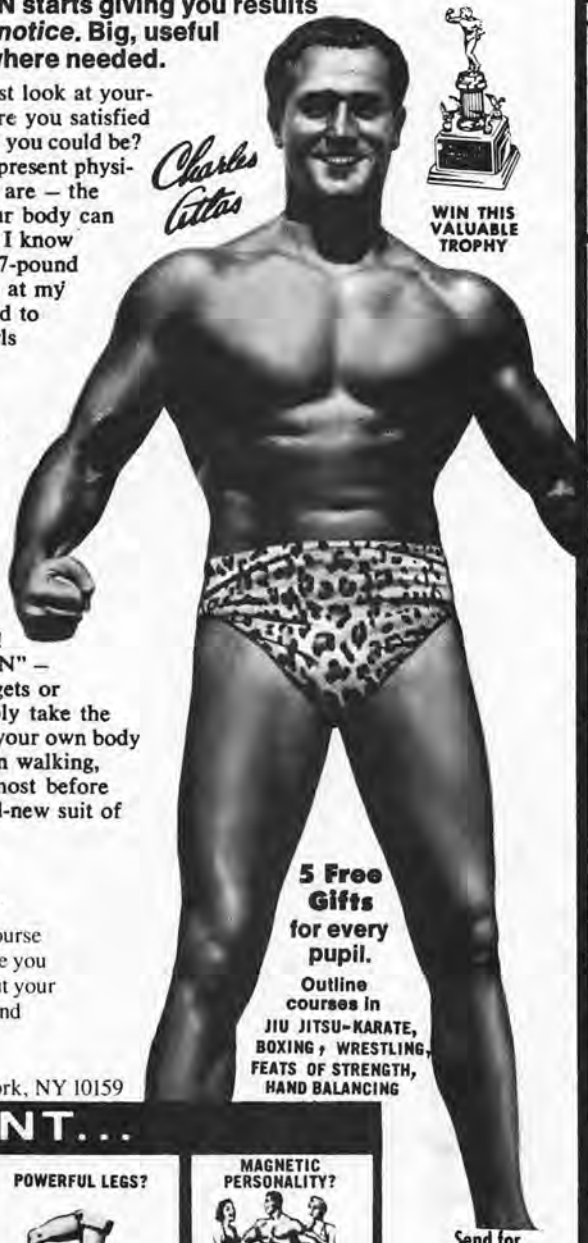

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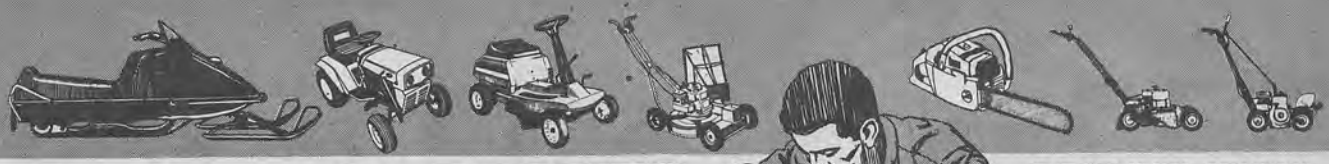

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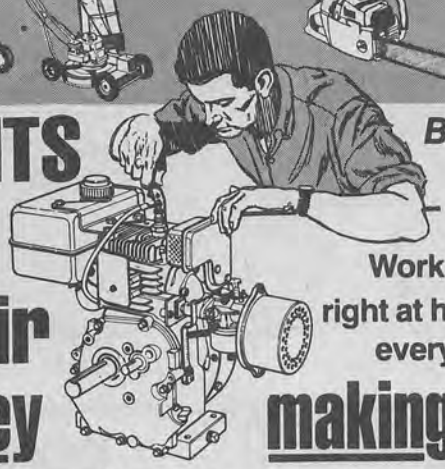

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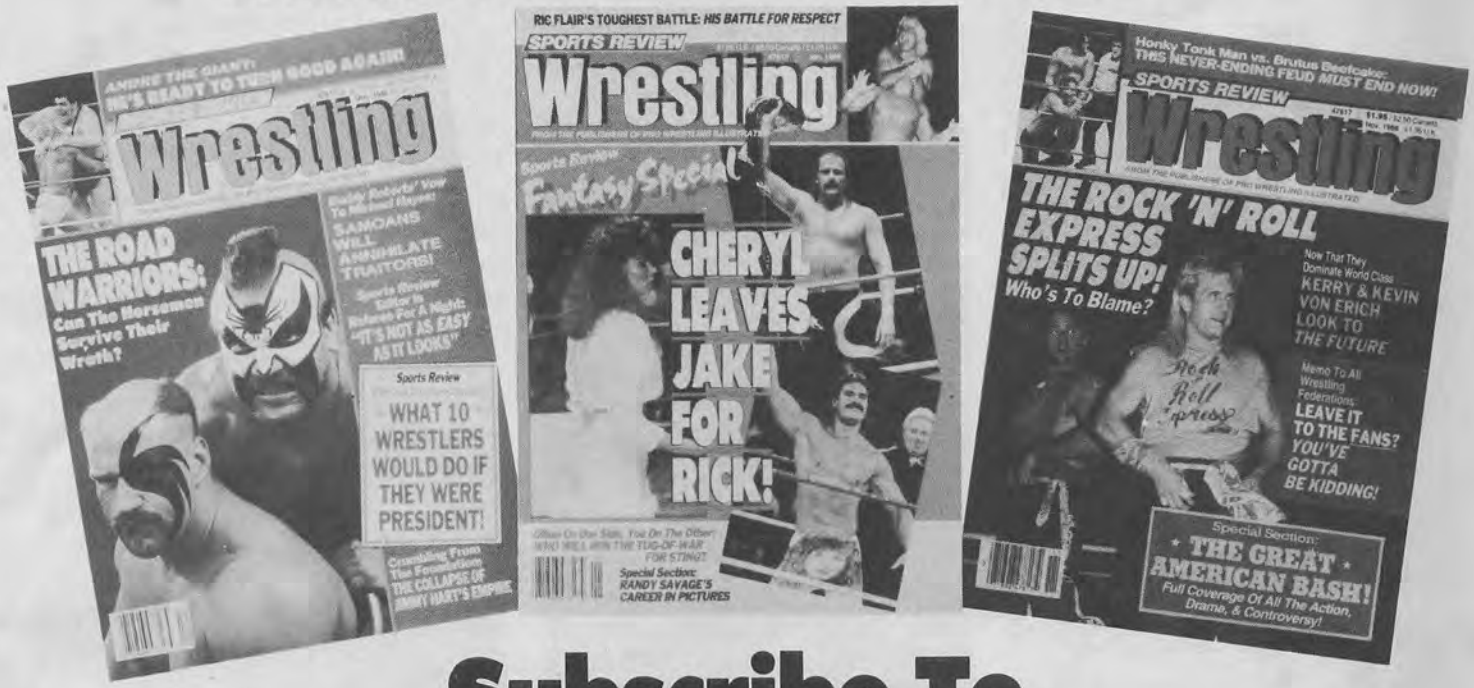
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HOGAN DESERVES IT

First of all, I'd like to say that I'm really no fan of either Hulk Hogan or Randy Savage. They really don't do anything for me except annoy me. But their recent argument over Elizabeth is worth discussing.

Elizabeth brought them together, and now she's pushing them apart. This is *all* her fault. She is not a manager, and she has *never* stepped into the ring. Can you honestly tell me she knows what to tell Randy to do?

Elizabeth deserves all the blame for the Megapowers' breakup, writes Kristen Adlon, who cites the manager's inexperience.

Well, there's no convincing me! Yes, she helped Randy get the belt, but she and Hogan are supposed to be so pure and wonderful and never take "cheap shots and short cuts." But it seems to me that Elizabeth was *so* intelligent that she would go back and get Hogan every time Savage was hurt, and Hogan would come in and "help out." (If you ask me, I call it cheating.)

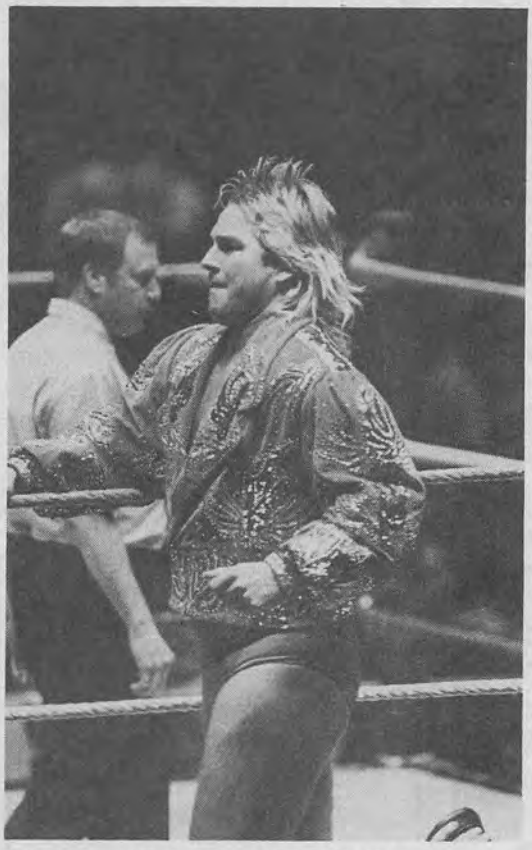
What I'm driving at is this: Savage made it this far on his own, without Elizabeth there for decoration, and he can keep on doing it. And if Savage decides to dump Elizabeth, it will be for the better! As for Hogan, he's been sticking his nose where it doesn't belong. Savage will make him pay—one way or the other!

KRISTEN ADLON
Nutley, NJ

RED REJECT

It is obvious to everyone that Terry Taylor is ruining his career in the WWF, but he has no one to blame but himself. When he dumped Bobby Heenan, he had a perfect opportunity to drop the Red Rooster gimmick. Now it has only gotten worse. Taylor has given himself a dyed-red mohawk and now he enters the ring to music with rooster sound effects.

I can understand Taylor wanting revenge on Heenan, but going through the Brooklyn Brawler is the wrong approach. If Taylor could beat the Brawler, then it would be all right. But he was actually pinned by Brawler at Madison Square Garden.



When Terry Taylor dumped Bobby Heenan as his manager, he also should have dropped the ridiculous Red Rooster gimmick because it's hurting his career, writes John Corcoran.

Taylor is falling into Heenan's trap. If Taylor wrestled Rick Rude or King Haku, then he would at least be climbing the ladder. But a victory over the Brooklyn Brawler would get him nowhere in the ratings and a loss would just be a humiliating setback. I just hope Taylor realizes this before he does anymore damage to his career.

JOHN CORCORAN
Morristown, NJ

KICKING AND PUNCHING

Having read for the last five years your magazines' criticism of Hulk Hogan's alleged lack of wrestling skills, and the continual wailing for the return of wrestling's "good old days" when wrestlers were wrestlers and "real men" like Bruno Sammartino were the kind of champions a fan could be proud of, I took it upon myself to investigate further. I rented a copy of *The History Of The WWF Championship* to find out exactly what today's wrestling fan is so tragically denied. The following is a blow-by-blow account of the masterful scientific maneuvers Bruno so brilliantly employed en route to yet another successful title defense:

Stomp, stomp, stomp, whip to the ropes, stomp, stomp, stomp.

Then, in a subtle, yet effective, altering of offense:

Punch, punch, stomp, bearhug, stomp, pin.

Clearly, today's wrestlers are far below this standard of tactical excellence. If only Sting's "scorpion leglock" were as technically advanced as the moves we watched the god-like former two-time WWF champion employ. If only The Blue Blazer's moves were as graceful and fluid as the repeated lifting and planting of Bruno's size-12s.

Even Hulk Hogan (while admittedly not today's best technical wrestler) is far better than Bruno demonstrated himself to be. Why is it often said that Hogan would be left dumbfounded, confused, and lying in the ring defeated, if he ever faced a "scientific wrestler"? Haven't seven-time former NWA World champion Harley Race, Randy Savage, King Haku, Paul Orndorff, Masked Superstar, Greg Valentine, Antonio Inoki, and Ted DiBiase—all men with an abundance of scientific skills—all been pinned by Hogan, a man whom Bruno "Stomping" Sammartino claims is an embarrassment to the sport he once represented so valiantly?

Bruno Sammartino hammers away at Stan Hansen in the 1976 match in which Hansen broke Bruno's neck. Reader Dean Jenkinson has serious doubts about Bruno's skills.

DEAN JENKINSON
Winnipeg, Manitoba

LOST IN THE SHUFFLE

All I've read lately is how wrestlers like Curt Hennig, Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard, and Terry Taylor will get lost in the WWF shuffle. Or how Don Muraco, Junkyard Dog, The Killer Bees, or The British Bulldogs fell out of the limelight. However, this doesn't only happen in the WWF. Here are some examples:

Ron Simmons (NWA): A great athlete, Simmons is strong and quick for a big man. He received a brief shot at stardom when he teamed with Eddie Gilbert in the U.S. tag team title tournament. Since then, he's been a preliminary wrestler. He has been in the shadows for too long.

Ivan Koloff (NWA): After turning against Paul Jones, Koloff was cheered. Ivan teamed with JYD to rid the NWA of Jones' Russian Assassins. Lately, JYD has teamed with Michael Hayes against the Assassins. What happened to Ivan? I thought this was *his* battle.

Ron Simmons armlocks Steve Williams. Reader Randy Brand wonders why Simmons, who is recognized as a great athlete, isn't a bigger star in the NWA.

Kevin Von Erich (World Class): Kevin is the most talented Von Erich, but now he's not even a real contender for the World Class or Texas titles. World Class champion Jerry Lawler will probably not wrestle Kevin because he's wrestling more Memphis wrestlers. Kevin, meanwhile, seems to get beat up every week on TV.

Super Black Ninja (World Class): He moves exceptionally well for a big man. There were big expectations when

(Continued on page 46)

THE TATTLER

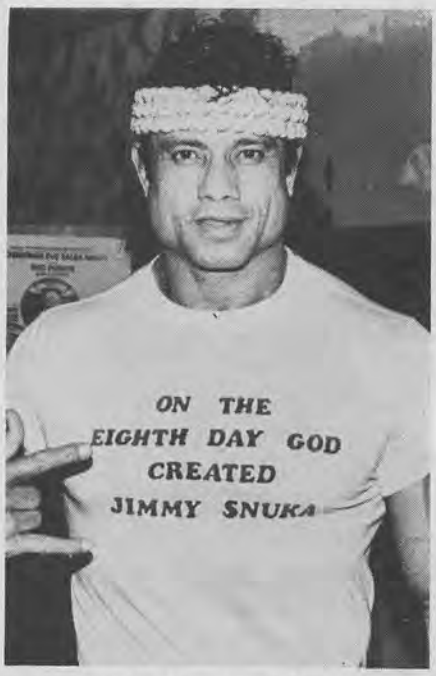
EL PASO, TX: The Superfly is back! Jimmy Snuka, best known for his gravity-defying leaps and exciting high-flying style, has returned to the WWF. Snuka last wrestled in the WWF in 1985, when he engaged in a famous feud with Roddy Piper.

Ironically, it appears that Piper, too, might be ready to put the tights back on. The Rowdy Scot was scheduled to appear at WrestleMania V in a special "Piper's Pit" segment with Brother Love and Morton Downey Jr. Piper retired after WrestleMania III in March 1987.

"The difference now is that Snuka and Piper are both fan favorites, but who knows what will happen once they see each other for the first time," WWF expert Thomas Pilliard said. "It's entirely likely that the old hatred they had for each other will come right back."

Snuka made his return on March 7 at the El Paso Civic Center and pinned Boris Zukhov. But he appeared to be a long way from the Snuka of 1982, who executed his legendary "Superfly leap" from the top of a steel cage and came within inches of dethroning then-WWF champion Bob Backlund.

Snuka briefly wrestled in the AWA after his WWF tour ended but was hospitalized by a Col. DeBeers piledriver. More recently, Snuka has wrestled for independent federations in Hawaii. He is, however, a 20-year veteran of the sport whose best days were in the late 1970s and early '80s. Whether he is able to keep up with the level of competition in the WWF remains to be seen.



JIMMY SNUKA

On the same card, former sumo wrestler John Tenta made his WWF TV debut by battling Curt Hennig to a double-countout. Tenta, who weighs close to 400 pounds, stunned the crowd with his dropkicks and martial arts moves. Hennig, by the way, was still undefeated in the WWF at press time.

—James Washington

(Continued on page 52)

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STRAIGHT talk with EDDIE ELLNER

RANDY SAVAGE VS. HULK HOGAN

It may be the hour (4:30 a.m.) or the day (deadline morning) that contributes to this improbable first item this month. We need him now more than ever before; his pear shaped head, prune juice personality, and pathetic whine may be all that separates pro wrestling from oblivion. Having entered an era where traditional values are dropping faster than passengers from New Zealand-bound jetliners, freckles and a pair of beady, insect eyes may be all that can save us.

Good and bad are hardly distinguishable. **Hogan** vs. **Savage** . . . **Steamboat** vs. **Flair** . . . **Windham** vs. **Luger**. Sometimes good, sometimes bad. Sometimes cheered, sometimes booed. It sounds like a nursery rhyme. Since when did the world become gray and mottled? Who is left to hound and censure? Who can I toss a beer on and not risk the crowd's disapproval?

BOB BACKLUND

With the triumphant return of **Bob Backlund**, pro wrestling would possess a man capable of instilling indisputable loathing back into the sport. The homogenized, whole wheat and cream cheese putz could put some much-needed hate back into a sport that's become too polite. We can beg for Backlund's blood and not be overwhelmed by guilt. C'mon back, Howdy Doody. Our dartboards need a pinup.

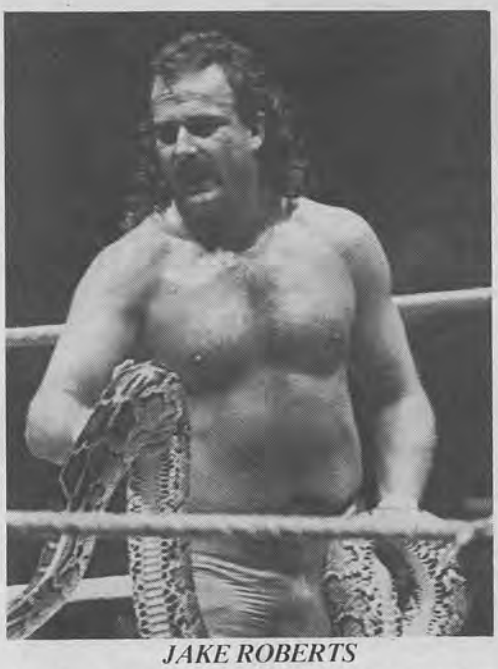
As long as we're on the subject of good guys whose finish we fervently pray for, who better to bury than the star spangled spectre of **Sgt. Slaughter**. I am sick of this jingoistic jellybean defending my country. "I'll bust apart anyone who knocks America," Slaughter maintains. He's done a swell job, hasn't he? Created quite a crazy quilt of international cooperation and understanding among foreign grapplers. Slaughter has taken such a pounding (though not his bankbook) masquerading as **Captain America**, his face (Ah! Sweet irony!) resembles a relief map of Iraq.

International relations

SGT. SLAUGHTER

provides the perfect segue into this month's special section and "Straight Talk's" first-ever contest: Win a *PWI* T-Shirt and a copy of **Solomon Rushdie's** *Satanic Verses* by naming the **Five Wrestlers You Want On Khomeini's Hit List.** Give a brief, one- or two- sentence explanation as to why these particular wrestlers deserve to be turned into falafal in an Arab torture chamber

AYATOLLAH KHOMEINI



JAKE ROBERTS

DUSTY RHODES

and the big prizes can be yours. You may want to include the manner in which each wrestler is to be done away with. Send your entries to: ROCK ME AYATOLLAH, Box 48, Rockville Centre, NY, 11571. The best and most imaginative entries will be printed right here in Straight Talk. Deadline for the contest is May 5.

In wake of the recent scandals to rock the University of Oklahoma, I wonder if **Steve (I Bleed Sooner Red) Williams** might seek a different letter for **The Varsity Club** . . . One of the banes of publishing a monthly magazine is the inability to report the action as it happens. The deadline for this column is March 7 (which was yesterday) while **WrestleMania** won't happen 'til April 2. However, I asked writer/nutritionist/soothsayer **Janis Jibrin** to consult the stars for the outcome of the **Giant Idiot-Jake Roberts** match. "The Snake will strangle the Giant; then Studd will smother him." Hope her predictions are better than her Oat Bran muffins in red pepper sauce.

Contest suggestion: Three million starving Moslems should beat **Dusty Rhodes** about the head with blueberry pancakes.

Add a new item to the **Bill (Rapidly Coming Apart At The Seams) Apter** follicle count. Bill's been spotted around town sporting a new pair of prescription glasses, lending credence to the saying, "Hair today, eyes tomorrow." While the photographer/henpecked husband's hair maintained its lock count from last month, his left eye dropped a few points. I never thought Bill's myopia would become a physical problem as well.

How about: Tie **Randy Savage** to a chair while videotapes of **Miss Elizabeth's** date with the Nebraska varsity football team flash on the screen . . . **Lex Luger's** title-winning defeat of **Barry Windham** simply reinforces the schoolyard code that bullies can still beat up on pandering twits. The NWA title is not in his future . . . **Rick Steamboat's** future evolves from his vision of a perfectly balanced life: family, community, work, in that order. I admire him for making it work, though I can't see **Ric Flair** not winning back the title within six months.

Or: **Rick Morton** should be strapped to the speakers at a **Cinderella** concert till his brains leak from his nose. 'Til next month.

[Editor's note: This is a test; this is only a test. So that we may determine if Eddie Ellner in fact reads his columns after they are submitted and printed, we make this statement: "Eddie, you're fired." If Eddie actually has been fired, you will see in its place next month a column that we, as a magazine, will be able to back 100 percent. As it stands now, the views of this column are Eddie's and Eddie's alone.]□

RICK MORTON

RICK STEAMBOAT & SON

LOCKER ROOM Confidential

with Bill Apter

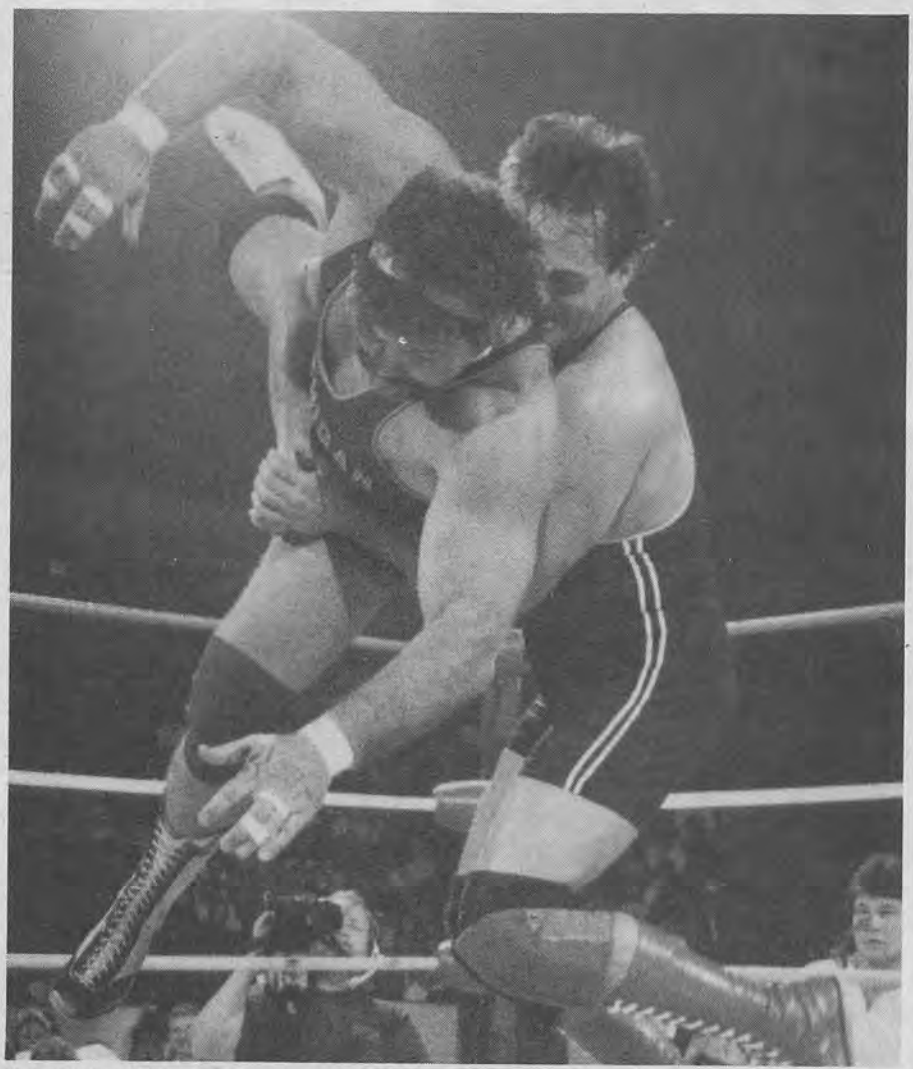
MIKE ROTUNDO WAS the forgotten man at the Chi-Town Rumble. On almost any other night, Rotundo would've been the center of attention for regaining the NWA TV title from Rick Steiner. But on February 20, a night when Rick Steamboat won the World championship and Lex Luger regained the U.S. title, smaller matters—such as the TV title—were all but lost.

That says a lot about how great a card the Chi-Town Rumble was; it was one of the greatest ever, in my opinion. But it also says something about Rotundo's character. Rotundo is the captain of Kevin Sullivan's evil Varsity Club, but his personality hasn't come that far from the days when he was known simply as an ex-Syracuse University star and a low-key scientific wrestler.

Don't let his attitude fool you.

"The thing is, there's nothing unusual about my looks," Rotundo said in a rare moment of introspection a few days after his victory. "Flair struts around the ring with his blond hair, Steamboat's Hawaiian and has that martial arts background, and Luger's big and muscular. I'm one of the few wrestlers around that looks like a normal man.

"That's one of the reasons why I joined Kevin," Rotundo continued. "You see, these fans and promoters are idiots. They only notice the outlandish, they don't notice the talent. You show me another wrestler anywhere that has my ability or background. You know, they say Ted DiBiase has great amateur skills, but he's nothing compared to me. The same goes for Flair and Steamboat."



Rick Steiner tries to escape from Mike Rotundo's waistlock takedown. Rotundo didn't receive much attention when he regained the NWA TV title from Steiner at the Chi-Town Rumble. That's because there were two other champions crowned that night.

Of course, a case can be made that Flair, Steamboat, and DiBiase are better all-around wrestlers. Rotundo has yet to supplement his scientific skills with a strong aerial attack, and he's still at a disadvantage when forced to brawl. Simply put, Rotundo's game fits the mode of a fan favorite more than a rulebreaker.

"But that's *another* ridiculous statement," Rotundo contended. "Why the heck do people think that anyone the fans like is a scientific wrestler, and if a guy has any scientific skills at all he can't be rulebreaker? Look at Luger! The man can't wrestle a lick, he just grabs people and throws 'em around the ring. Then look at

(Continued on page 50)

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TOP WRESTLE
YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question you want answered by 10 of wrestling's top stars? Each month, *Sports Review Wrestling* will publish a fan's "Question of the Month," which will be answered by the sport's top superstars. If you have a question you would like to see answered, send it to:

ASK THE STARS
Sports Review Wrestling
Box 48
Rockville Centre, NY 11571

THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

"Would you give an autograph to a fan?"

Submitted by: Mark Daily Scranton, PA

BOBBY FULTON

"One of the great joys of being a professional wrestler is getting to meet the fans, and I'm sure that Tommy Rogers feels the same way. As for signing autographs, it has to be at the right time and place, really. It's hard to give one when I'm making my way back to the locker room after a tough match, but many times I'll sign a few outside the arena. It's always a lot of fun."

AUSTIN IDOL

"Are you kidding? I always take some time out to be with my people. Now that I'm here in the Continental area, the fans have taken to me like never before. I'm always glad to shake a hand or sign an autograph if I have the time. It makes the day at the arena that much more enjoyable. Of course, sometimes I get beat up and have to say no, but most of the time I'm glad to do it."

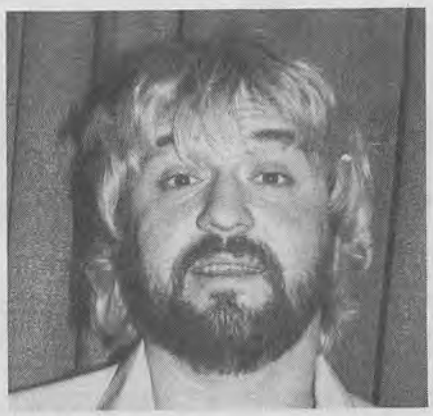
BILL DUNDEE

"Wrestlers are very unique because we're always in the public eye. Many times, we get hounded for autographs while shopping or at a restaurant. I realize it's just a small price to pay for our fame, and I'm usually very happy to sign for my American mates. All I ask is the fans be polite when making their requests. That way, I know I'm giving an autograph to a *real* wrestling fan."

SGT. SLAUGHTER

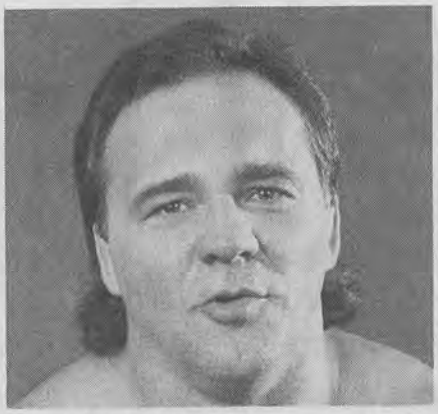
"I don't think there's another wrestler in the United States that spends more time with his fans than I do. To me, the greatest pleasure of my career is circling the ring before my matches, shaking hands and saluting all the members of my Cobra Corps. As for signing autographs, I try to do it as often as I can. But if you put down the good ol' U.S. of A., you'll never get *my* signature."

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



ERIC EMBRY

"It's funny you should bring that up. For most of my career, I've been a rulebreaker. Everywhere I went, people would insult me and generally avoid me. But since I've been battling Skandor Akbar and his men, everybody has been treating me differently. And you know what? A few months ago, I signed my very *first* autograph in years. Isn't that something?"



LARRY ZBYSZKO

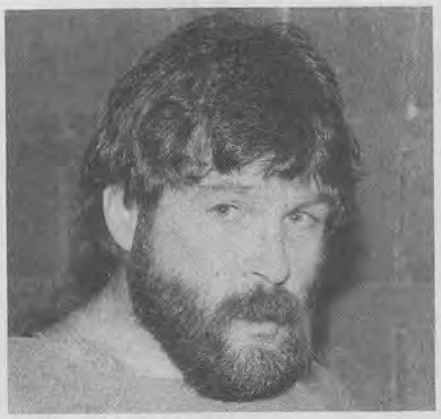
"Sign an autograph? For what possible reason would I do that? To have a fan remind me that 'Larry sucks'? To get spit on or insulted? Or worse yet, to have one of those spudheads touch me? Give me a break, pal! All I want from the fans is their money. Other than that, they should avoid me at all costs—especially since I'm the AWA World champion. I'm just too important now, kiddies."

COL. DEBEERS

"No, I would never even *consider* signing an autograph. But if any American fan would be foolhardy enough to ask me for one, I would give it to him only if he could tell me the U.S. government's position on trade with South Africa. If he could prove he is knowledgeable on current events, then he deserves my precious signature. If not, he proves he is just a typical ignorant American."

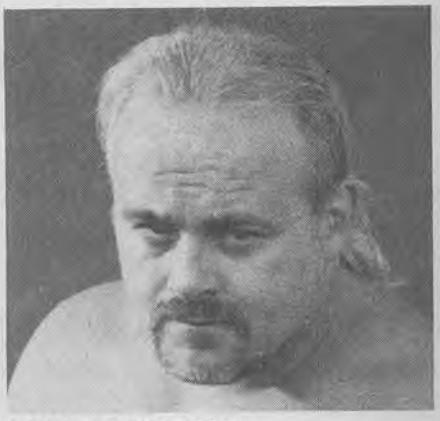
DUSTY RHODES

"My good fans are precious to me, daddy, and I love to give out my noble John Hancock, if you will. But it's gotta be in the proper time and place. If I'm leavin' the ring all bloody and sweaty and stinkin', you can't expect the 'Dream' to be in any mood to be kissin' babies. But if you're polite and see me at the arena, go ahead and ask. You might be pleasantly surprised!"



DUTCH MANTEL

"What a total waste! There's no way I'll ever give these trashy, uneducated CWA fans an autograph. So if any of you imbeciles are dumb enough to try it, expect a nice wad of chewin' tobacco juice to hit you square between the eyes. I've got better things to do than stand around talkin' about my sport with a bunch of rubes who can't even figure out their middle names. Give me a break!"



KEVIN SULLIVAN

"My autograph? This is Kevin Sullivan you're talking to, folks. I am *the* mastermind behind The Varsity Club. I once hung Blackjack Mulligan from the top turnbuckle with a noose. I once attacked Precious inside the 'Tower of Doom.' I once attacked Dusty Rhodes with a steel spike. Are you *really* brave enough to ask me for my autograph? *Hahaha!*"

The Inquiring Reporter

No one knows wrestling better than the fans. Because of this, we're now giving these experts a forum for their views and opinions. Each month, we'll ask a controversial question and have the fans answer—no matter what those answers might be!

THE QUESTION:
"Do you still consider Jerry Lawler a world champion?"

THE ANSWERS:
Bob Dial, Sacramento, CA: "From everything I've read and heard, this appears to be quite a controversy. Lawler's begun to carry around something he calls the 'unified world title' belt, but he was stripped of the AWA title because he missed some scheduled defenses. He's still the World Class champion, so whatever his new belt is supposed to 'unify' is beyond me. He's a great wrestler—always has been—but if he doesn't carry the NWA, WWF, or AWA World title belt around his waist, then he's got no right to call himself a world champion, as far as I'm concerned."

Ray Pignone, Memphis: "I've always believed that a man becomes a champion more by deed than by any belt he wears. In that respect, Jerry Lawler has been a *true* champion for most of his career. The only thing that could have been said about Lawler was that he was unlucky, because he beat most of the other champions, like Randy Savage, before Savage was a champion. Finally, on May 8 of last year, 'The King' took my city by storm

Jerry Lawler once held the World Class, AWA World, and "unified" titles all at the same time. Then the AWA stripped him of their belt.

when he beat Curt Hennig to win the AWA World championship. For some reason, the AWA has stripped Jerry of that belt, but nobody ever pinned Lawler's shoulders to the mat. Everybody I know around here still calls him the champ."

Sandy Simmons, Oklahoma City: "What's all the fuss about? Lawler can call himself the world champion, but there's only one *true* world champion, and that's Rick Steamboat. Steamboat holds the oldest and most respected world title, one that's been in existence since 1905. I used to consider the WWF title a world title, too, but when that Hebner referee fiasco happened last year, I gave up on that one. But how can Lawler consider himself a world champion to begin with? Because he owns the World Class title, which is only a regional championship? What an ego that guy has!"

Ed Menning, Atlanta: "I feel sorry for Lawler. For months, he traveled all over the United States looking for the best competition he could find to defend his AWA World title. After he won the World Class belt, it looks like he took on too big a responsibility. He had promoters from the AWA, World Class, and the CWA all vying for his services on the same dates. Even a World champion can't be three places at once! Everyone would have to admit that Lawler is one of the best wrestlers in the world. Now, fans in the AWA won't get a chance to see him anymore. It's a real shame for everybody involved."

Annie Saunders, Delmar, NY: "I still consider Lawler a world champion. That unified belt he wears counts for

(Continued on page 49)

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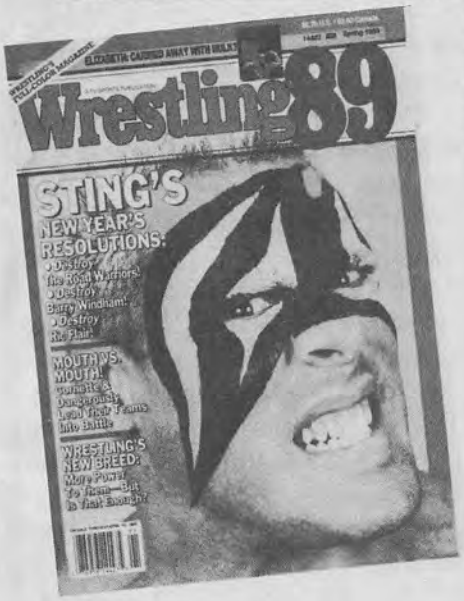

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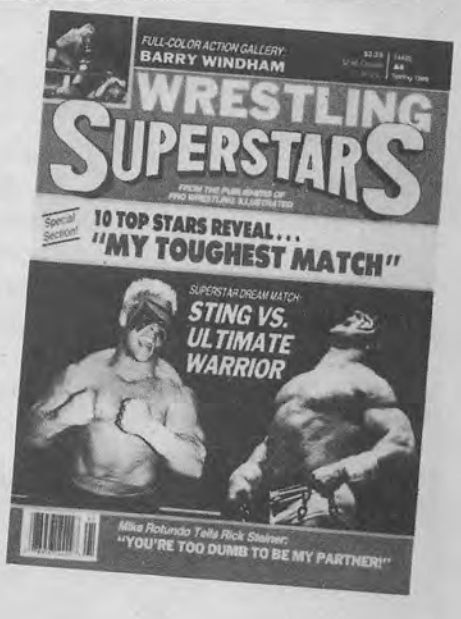

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SCRAPBOOK

MAY/JUNE 1969

MITSU ARAKAWA AND Prof. Toru Tanaka won a tournament to become the WWF International tag team champions . . . Chris Markoff was stripped of his Pacific Coast title by the NWA for what the commissioners called "gross ring misconduct" . . . Mil Mascaras was awarded the Americas heavyweight championship when The Sheik threw the masked star over the top rope during a Los Angeles match in which the disqualification rule was waived . . . 16,000 fans in Boston watched Bruno Sammartino defeat The Sheik in a brutal steel cage match. After the match, Sammartino caught The Sheik's manager, Abdullah Farouk, with a few well-placed punches . . . "Iron" Mike DiBiase, father of "Million-Dollar Man" Ted DiBiase, died of a heart attack after a match in Lubbock, Texas; he was 45 . . . Two brother teams from Canada, Ron and Terry Garvin, and George and Sandy Scott, met in Norfolk, Virginia, for a best-of-three-falls main event. The Garvins won the first fall, but dropped the next two . . . Cowboy Bob Ellis, on tour in Australia, became involved in a bloody feud with Killer Karl Kox. During a grudge saddle match, Ellis countered Kox's brainclaw with a ringside chair. After Ellis won, he strapped the saddle onto Kox' back and rode him around the ring.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Dory Funk Jr.; 2—Gene Kiniski; 3—Fritz Von Erich; 4—Mil Mascaras; 5—Eddie Graham; 6—Cowboy Bob Ellis; 7—The Sheik; 8—Johnny Valentine; 9—Ernie Ladd; 10—Bob Geigel.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Harley Race; 3—Crusher; 4—Bruiser; 5—Bill Watts; 6—Blackjack Lanza; 7—Mighty Igor; 8—Mad Dog Vachon; 9—Reg Parks; 10—Doug Gilbert.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Killer Kowalski; 3—Gorilla Monsoon; 4—Prof. Toru Tanaka; 5—Edouard Carpentier; 6—Miguel Perez; 7—George Steele; 8—Bull Ramos; 9—Spiros Arion; 10—Victor Rivera.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Bruiser & Crusher; 2—Pepper Gomez & Pedro Morales; 3—Prof. Toru Tanaka & Mitsu Arakawa; 4—George Becker & Johnny Weaver; 5—Kenji Shibuya & Haru Sasaki; 6—Ole & Gene Anderson; 7—The Medics; 8—The Assassins; 9—Stan & Paul Vachon; 10—George & Sandy Scott.

The Sheik punches Mil Mascaras in the neck. Mascaras captured the Americas' heavyweight title from Sheik in Los Angeles when Sheik threw him over the top rope.

MAY/JUNE 1974

THE VALIANTS, "Handsome" Jimmy and "Luscious" Johnny, managed by Capt. Lou Albano, won the WWF tag team championship from Tony Garea and Dean Ho in Hamburg, Penn-

(Continued on page 58)

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WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

RICK STEAMBOAT

RICK STEAMBOAT MADE wrestling history on February 20 in Chicago when he defeated Ric Flair for his first NWA World championship. Now he's made wrestling history again by becoming the first person ever to be named "Wrestler of the Month" for two consecutive months.

"I could get used to this," Steamboat cracked after being told of the honor. "It's especially gratifying to see that the people who report on this great sport appreciate my efforts. But to tell you the truth, all of these awards are nothing compared to the great satisfaction I took in having my wife and son there when I beat Flair. That was my ultimate moment in wrestling."

It was certainly a moment to remember after a match that will never be forgotten. Flair and Steamboat went all-out for more than 23 minutes before "The Dragon" countered a figure-four leglock and rolled over Slick Ric for the pin. Referee Tommy Young had been knocked out in a collision but stand-by ref Teddy Long bounded into the ring and made the count.

Then, with the crowd celebrating wildly, Steamboat's beautiful wife Bonnie brought their son Richard Jr. to the ring and the entire family basked together in the glory of victory. Steamboat's victory ended Flair's fifth title reign in the same city where it started 452 days earlier with a win over Ronnie Garvin.

"Don't let anybody tell you Flair's not a great wrestler," Steamboat said. "Anybody who's held the belt as long as he has and as many times as he has is something special, and let me tell ya something, he's the best I've ever faced. I'm totally against Flair's lifestyle, but when we get into that ring, it's man vs. man, one-on-one, and the way we live means nothing. I despise him, but I respect him, too."

And the admiration from Flair is mutual. "I've said a lot of things about Rick Steamboat, but I've never accused him of being anything but a great wrestler,' Flair said. "Anybody who beats me has something special going for him, but I have one thing to say: I'd just like to see him do it again. There's no way it'll ever happen."

Despite Steamboat's marvelous accomplishment, the editors of *Sports Review Wrestling* were not unanimous in their decision to make him "Wrestler of the Month." Eddie Ellner's vote went to Larry Zbyszko for beating 17 men in a battle royal for the AWA World title. Bill Apter felt that Lex Luger's U.S. title win over Barry Windham was worthy of consideration. "Luger finally broke through," Apter said, "and we should acknowledge it."

There was also some concern over breaking precedent and giving the award to the same person two months in a row. "It's something we've never done before and I wanted to make absolutely certain he was the most worthy candidate before making him the first ever," Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks said. "This is something not even Hogan or Flair has done."

In fact, Steamboat has now won "Wrestler of the Month" four times, more than any other wrestler (Hulk Hogan and The Road Warriors have each won the award three times). Incredibly, Flair hasn't been named "Wrestler of the Month" since 1984.

"There are some flaws in the system," Saks admitted. "Quantity does not always equal quality in this award. There are months when there are several worthy contenders, then there are months when nobody deserves the award but somebody has to get it. In this case, though, there was an overload of worthy candidates."

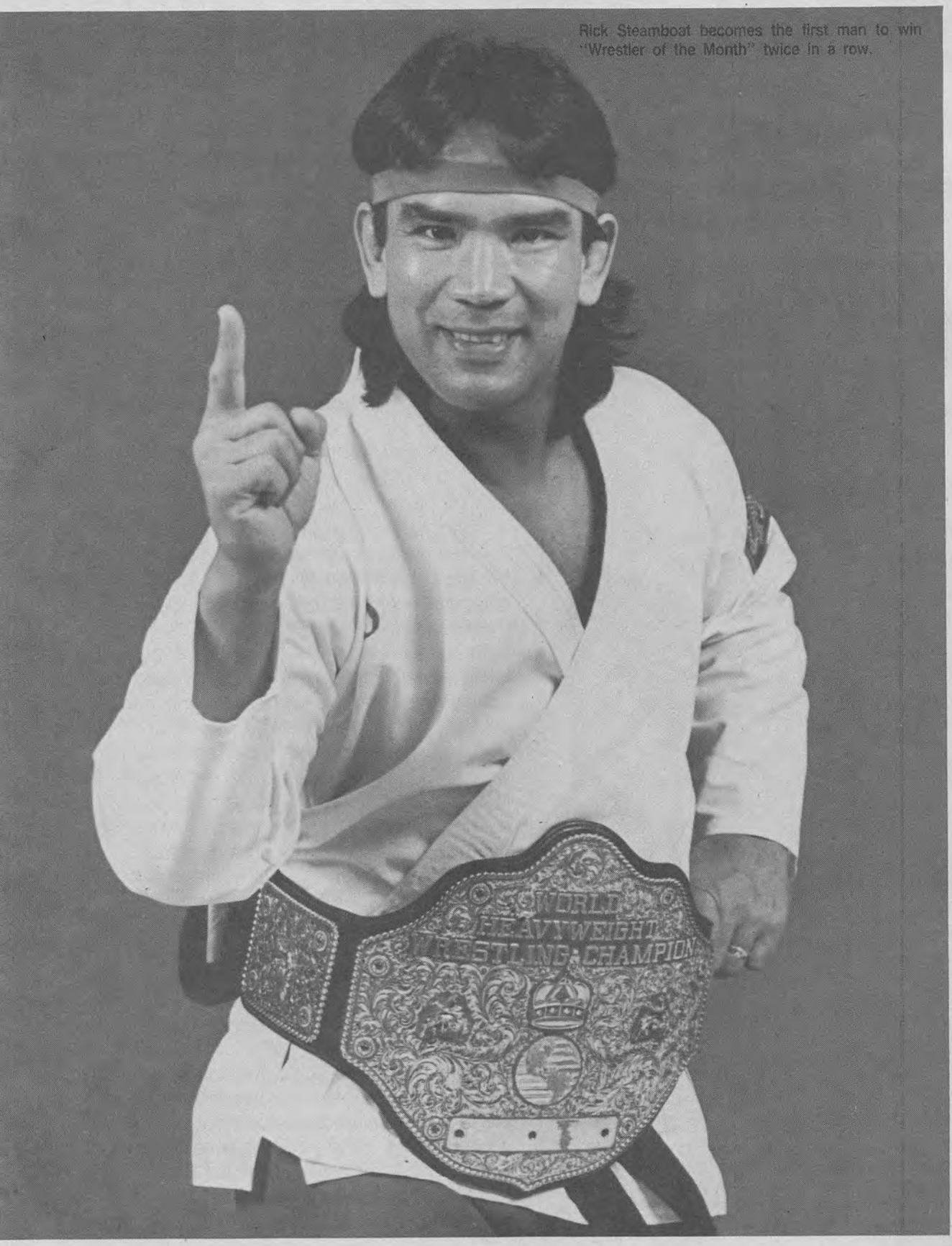
What separated Steamboat from the rest was his clean victory over Flair. Luger won when Windham mistakenly pinned himself. Rotundo, too, won the NWA TV title when Steiner laid back on his shoulders while applying a figure-four leglock. Zbyszko won an 18-man battle royal that didn't even include former AWA World champ Jerry Lawler.

And while Randy Savage and Hulk Hogan made a tremendous impact on the WWF, they were both a month away from their WrestleMania V title bout. February belonged to Rick Steamboat.

"It's something I've worked hard for all my life," Steamboat said. "I never would've come back the way I did if I didn't think I was capable of winning the World championship. I was content in retirement and I was happy spending so much time with my wife and son. But I had never won a world title and figured this might be my last chance."

Now that he's champion, Steamboat will have to hold off the challenge of Flair. As a story in the June 1989 issue of *The Wrestler* points out, the average time between Flair's previous four title reigns was only 65 days. Flair is undoubtedly a great champion, but he's an even greater challenger.

"I recognize the challenge that awaits me," Steamboat said, "but I'm ready to live up to it. I plan on keeping this title for a long time and Flair had better get used to it." □



Rick Steamboat becomes the first man to win "Wrestler of the Month" twice in a row.

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

POINT:

THE ROAD WARRIORS WERE A BETTER TEAM FIVE YEARS AGO

When The Road Warriors burst upon the wrestling scene in 1983, they brought an intensity and ferocity that set them apart from all the other tag teams. Assistant Editor Andy Rodriguez doesn't think Hawk and Animal wrestle with that excitement anymore.

By Andy Rodriguez

THOSE WITH A sharp memory need only think back a few years. Who could ever forget the sight of Animal and Hawk running to the ring and crushing their opponents in 30 seconds?

They were The Road Warriors, 567 pounds of pure destruction. Only a few weeks after their 1983 debut, they captured the prestigious Georgia National tag team title. By 1984, they had become AWA World tag team champions. They were the most feared tag team of their time.

It's five years later, and the Warriors are NWA World tag team champions, but in my eyes they are no longer the most feared team in wrestling. Why? It's mainly because, in the last few years, they've proven they can be had.

During their AWA title reign, Hawk and Animal seemed positively immortal. The AWA was a different place back then. In those days, the tag team competition was tremendous, but it didn't seem to matter whom the Warriors were matched against. With the genius of Paul Ellering to guide them, these two bloodthirsty savages dominated their opponents with unparalleled power and ferocity.

In the years that followed, the Warrior legend started to wane. In 1986, Hawk broke his right leg while wrestling in Japan. And on January 30 of last year, Warlord and Barbarian attacked Animal during a weightlifting challenge, smashing his head into a stack of weights and fracturing the orbital socket around his eye. Worse that that, they even served as fan favorites for a while, teaming with men like Dusty Rhodes and Sting.

In the space of one year, the Warriors went from immortal to simply quite human. It was proven that Hawk and Animal are just like everybody else. They have feelings. They bleed. Their bones break. They can even suffer defeat.

Today, The Varsity Club gives them a hard time. Five years ago, they would have rolled right over them. They remain champions, but it's just not like it used to be. How I wish it were 1985 again.

Back then, they were the *real* Road Warriors.

Andy Rodriguez is assistant editor of this magazine.

There are two sides to every story, and nowhere is that more true than in professional wrestling. Each month, two of the world's most respected mat journalists will debate an important issue concerning the sport, facing off for an exchange of ideas, leaving the final decision up to *you*!

COUNTERPOINT:

THE ROAD WARRIORS ARE A BETTER TEAM TODAY

The fact that Hawk and Animal are NWA World tag team champions is proof they're as good a team today as they've ever been, writes Assistant Editor Eddie Ellner. Ellner was glad that the Warriors returned to their former rulebreaking ways.

By Eddie Ellner

THE ROAD WARRIORS are the NWA World tag team champions. What more do some people want?

During the last few months, Animal and Hawk destroyed Jim Cornette and his Midnight Express to win the title, double-teamed Sting and severely injured his neck, and even tried to take out Dusty Rhodes' right eye. They're clearly as brutal as they've ever been, and now maybe even more so. These men don't have to prove anything to anybody. They're still the greatest tag team in the history of wrestling.

In fact, the competition they've been barreling over proves that point. The Warriors have defeated teams like The Varsity Club, The Midnight Express, The Fantastics, Sting and Lex Luger. Does anybody remember the kind of teams the Warriors used to take on during their AWA title reign? Fearsome duos like Steve Regal and Jim Garvin, Crusher and Baron Von Raschke, and Sgt. Slaughter and Greg Gagne. Today's competition is greater, but so are Animal and Hawk.

Many people bemoan the fact that the Warriors have both suffered serious injuries over the past two years, but to me their rapid recoveries only prove their intestinal fortitude. Only one month after Hawk fractured his leg, he wrestled in a scaffold match at Starrcade '86. And last year's facial injury to Animal would have driven a lesser man into another line of business. After only a few weeks, the Warriors were together again, overpowering The Powers of Pain and sending them packing from the NWA.

Today's Road Warriors are older, wiser, and much more cunning. Paul Ellering has learned from the few mistakes his men have made, and they're unlikely to be injured again. Plus, the mean streak in Animal and Hawk seems stronger than ever. They're tearing people apart recklessly.

The Road Warriors are better today than they've ever been, and that's not even the scary part. They haven't even *peaked* yet!

Eddie Ellner is assistant editor of this magazine.

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CHI-TOWN RUMBLE MAKES NWA HISTORY!

U.S. Champion Lex Luger

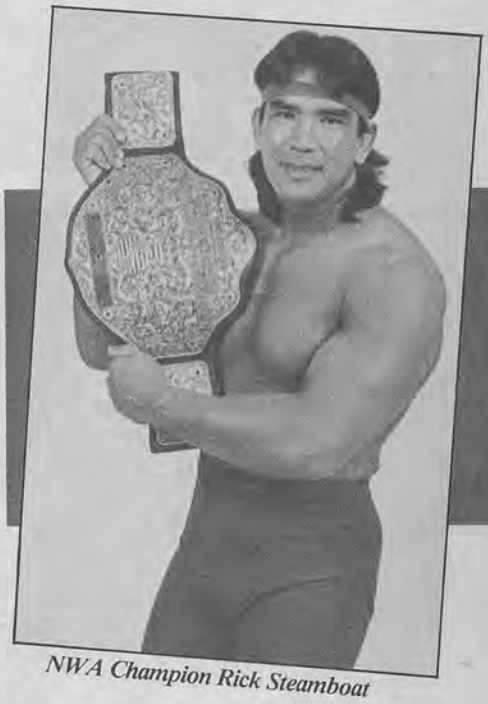
WRESTLING AT ITS BEST. Is there anything like it in the entire world, anything that can match the excitement and drama, the level of athletic competition? When the world's greatest athletes perform at their best within the relatively small confines of the squared circle, all other sports must take a backseat.

The evening of February 20 in Chicago was one of those magical nights. Each match seemed to flow into the next, and the wrestlers appeared to feed off the electricity and excitement generated by the wrestlers in the previous match, finally resulting in a main event that was among the greatest in history.

But when Rick Steamboat pinned Ric Flair to win the NWA World title, it merely punctuated the Chi-Town Rumble, one of the greatest cards ever! Four titles were on the line and three changed hands. Every NWA champion wrestled and every top star was on hand. The crowd at the UIC Pavilion cheered every moment and one could sense that thousands of fans watching at home on pay-per-view TV were doing the same.

A brief recap of the highlights:

- A 23-minute six-second classic between Flair and Steamboat ended when Steamboat countered the "Nature Boy's" figure-four leglock and rolled him over for the pin. Referee Tommy Young had been knocked out in a collision, but substitute referee Teddy Long jumped into the ring and made the three-count. Afterward, Steamboat celebrated with his wife and son.
- Lex Luger won the U.S. title from Barry Windham in shocking fashion. Luger appeared beaten when Windham backdropped him for the pin, but just before the ref finished the three-count, Luger lifted his left shoulder. Windham, however, still had his shoulders on the mat and the ref finished the count!
- Mike Rotundo regained the TV title from Rick Steiner. Steiner had Rotundo in a sleeperhold but was lying down with his shoulders on the mat. The referee made the three-count and Rotundo had the title. Steiner pinned himself!
- And more! The Road Warriors retained their NWA World tag team belts with a victory over U.S. champs Kevin Sullivan and Steve Williams. Dennis Condrey, Randy Rose, and Paul E. Dangerously were scheduled to wrestle Bobby Eaton, Stan Lane, and Jim Cornette with the stipulation that the man who was pinned had to leave the NWA. Jack Victory substituted for Condrey, but Lane pinned Rose. Afterward, Dangerously said he didn't care!

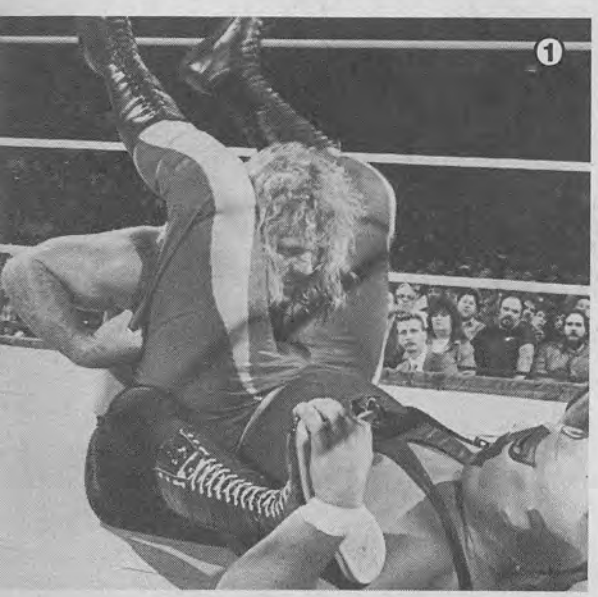


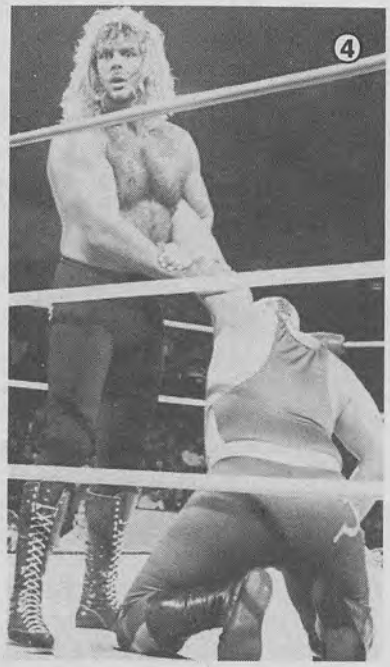
NWA Champion Rick Steamboat

Unfortunately, words are not adequate to describe the excitement of the Chi-Town Rumble. You're just going to have to see it for yourself on the pages that follow, where we bring you match-by-match photographic coverage of the Chi-Town Rumble, a night to remember!

Rick Steamboat won his first world title! Lex Luger regained the U.S. belt! Mike Rotundo regained the TV championship! And more! Chi-Town Rumble was one of the greatest cards ever, and *Sports Review Wrestling* was there to bring you all the action

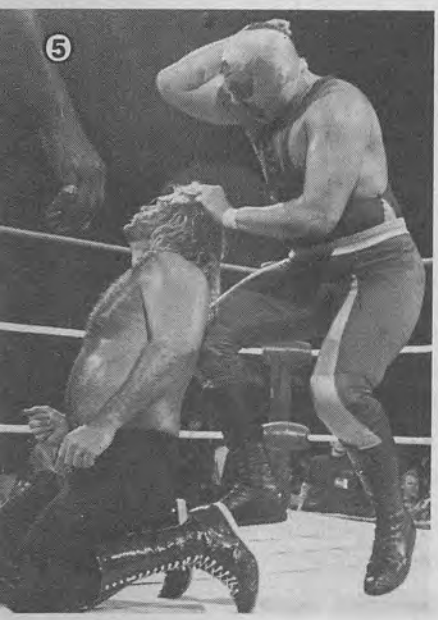
MICHAEL HAYES vs. RUSSIAN ASSASSIN I

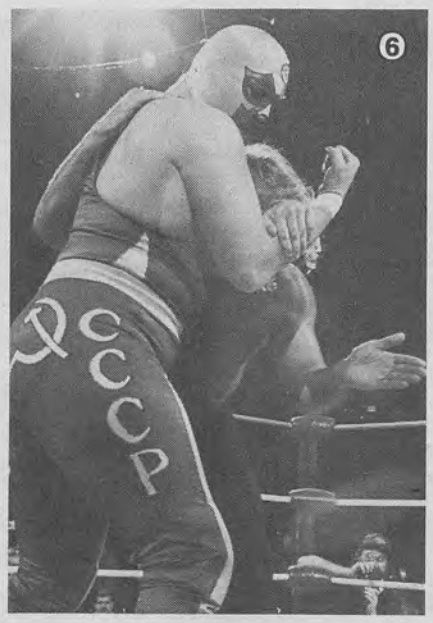


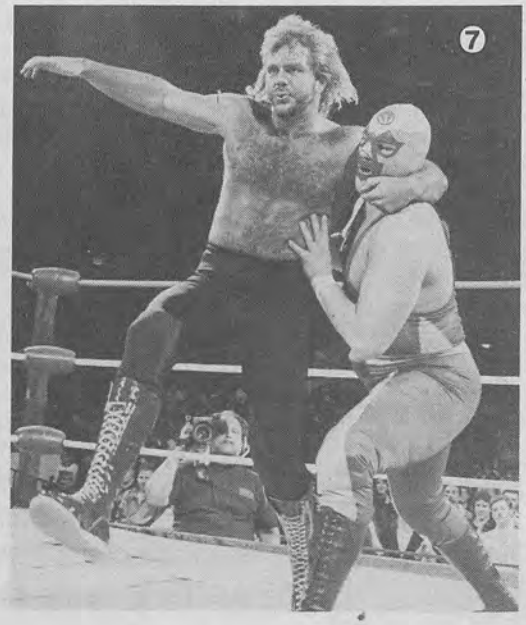


Michael Hayes despises Paul Jones and everything he represents. So it was with great pleasure that he went up against Jones' man, Russian Assassin I.

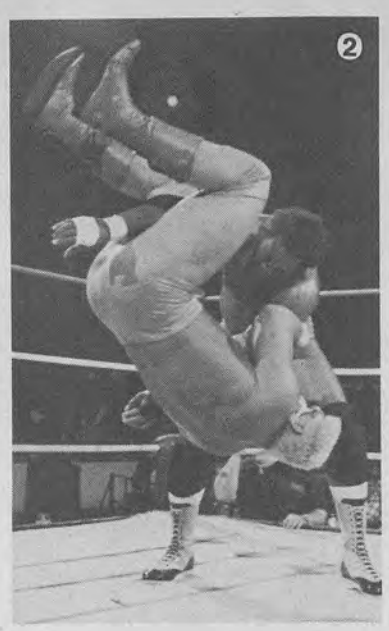
1. Hayes goes for the pin with a sunset flip.
2. Hayes armlocks the Assassin.
3. Assassin targets a right hand for the former Freebird.
4. Hayes is distracted by Jones as he applies the armlock.
5. Assassin lets fly with an elbowsmash.
6. Assassin squeezes on the side-headlock.
7. The Russian whips Hayes across the ring. Hayes pinned his opponent with a DDT.

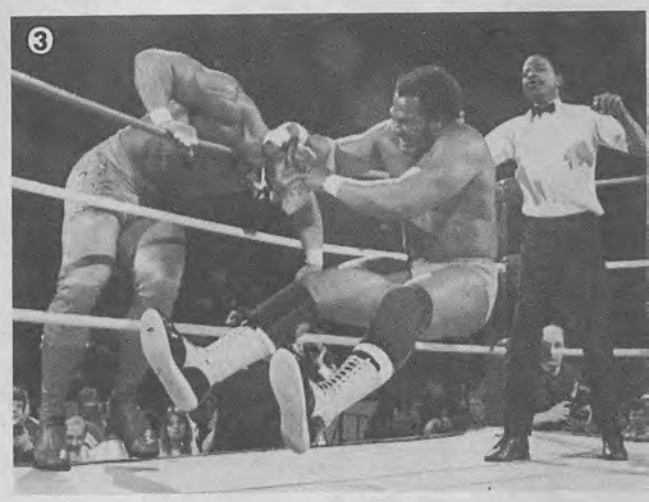






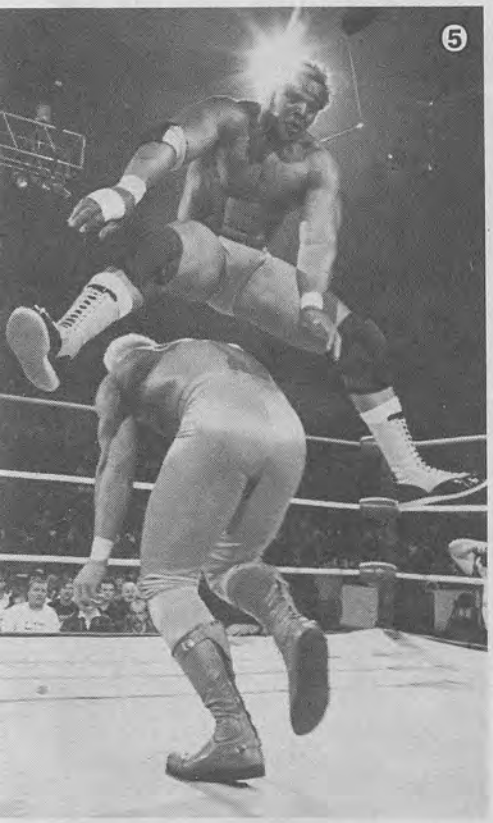
STING vs. BUTCH REED

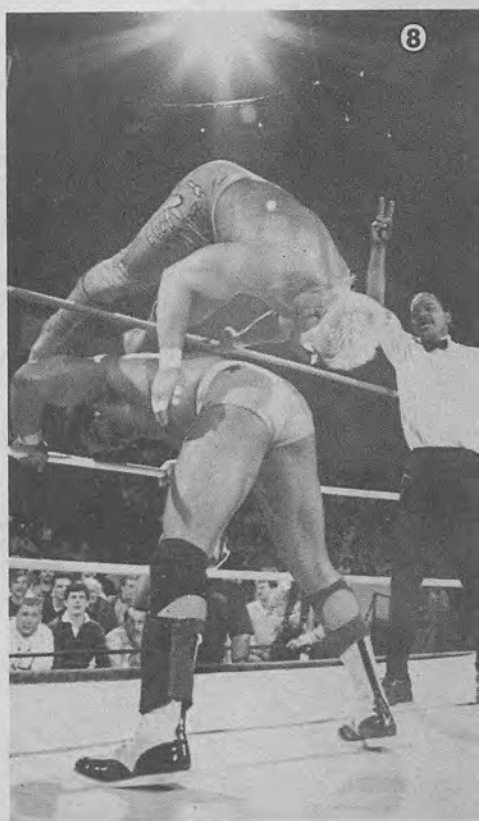




Sting faced a tough challenge from "Hacksaw" Butch Reed, a member of Hiro Matsuda's stable.

1. Referee Teddy Long tells Reed to keep the action in the ring.
2. Reed slams the "Stinger."
3. "Hacksaw" wrings Sting's neck over the ropes.
4. Sting applies the side headlock.
5. Reed leaps to avoid Sting's charge.
6. Sting clamps on the armlock.
7. Reed tosses Sting out of the ring.
8. The "Stinger" goes for the sunset flip and gets the pin.

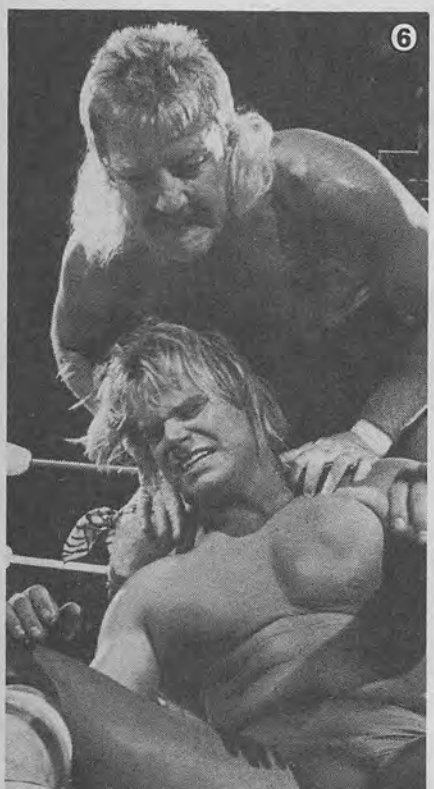




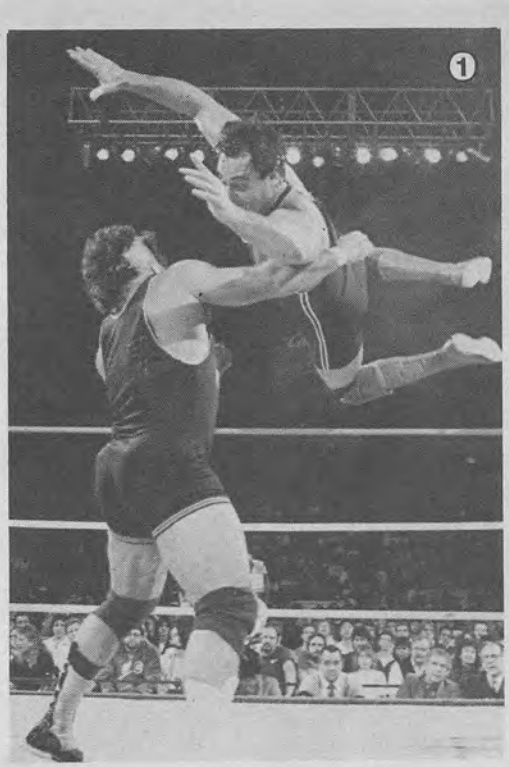
EATON, LANE, & CORNETTE vs. ROSE, VICTORY, & DANGEROUSLY

In this Midnights' encounter, even the managers wrestled.

1. Jack Victory and Paul E. Dangerously are ready for battle.
2. Jim Cornette and his men have also come to fight.
3. Paul E. tries to pin Cornette.
4. Dangerously viciously attacks his rival manager.
5. From his knees, Randy Rose slugs Stan Lane.
6. Rose goes for the choke on Lane.
7. Lane assaults Rose with a well-placed karate kick.
8. Bobby Eaton leaps at Victory from the top rope.
9. Rose has the advantage here, but Lane would pin him.

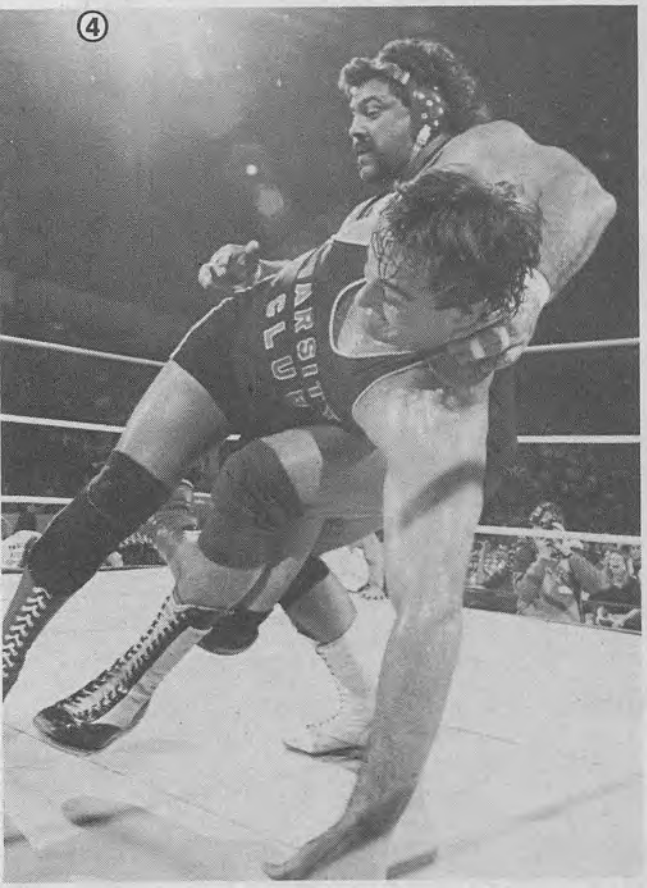


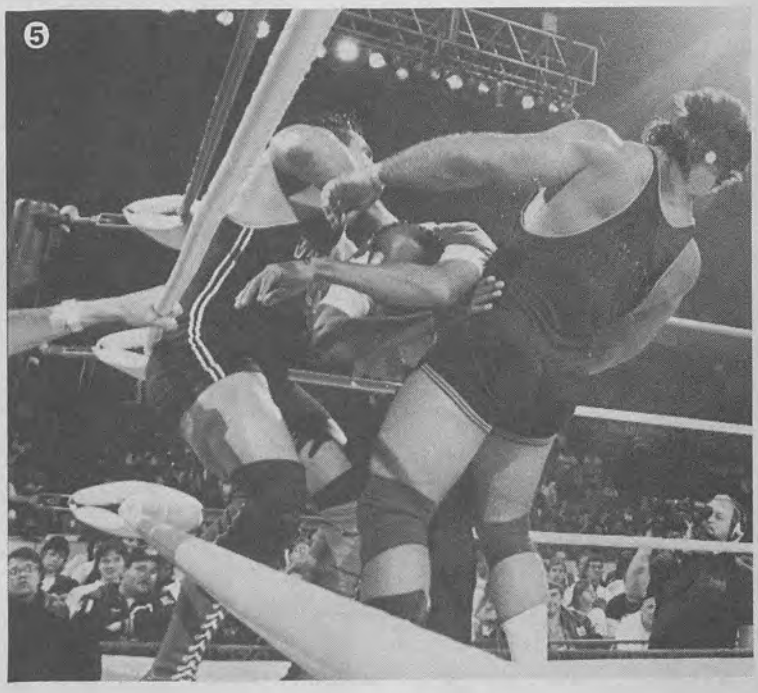
MIKE ROTUNDO vs. RICK STEINER



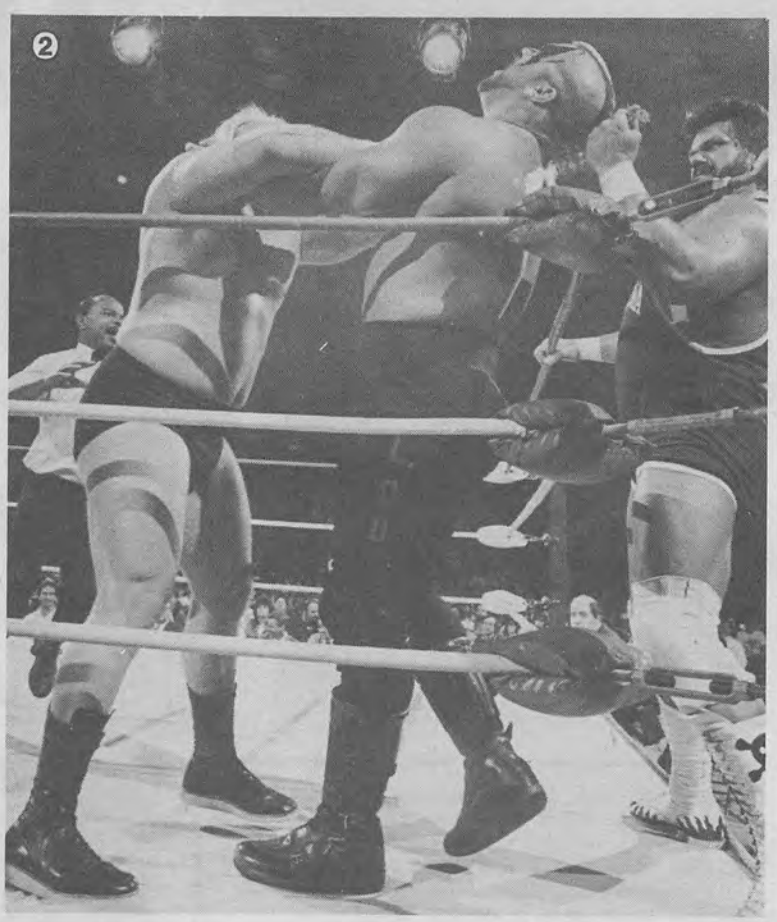
Rotundo was attempting to regain the NWA TV title he'd lost to Steiner at Starrcade.

1. Rotundo goes for a flying bodypress.
2. Rotundo wants to shake, but Steiner offers his "friend" Alex.
3. Steiner rears back to deliver a punch.
4. Steiner positions Rotundo for an abdominal stretch.
5. Teddy Long breaks up the fighting on the ropes. Rotundo won back the title.



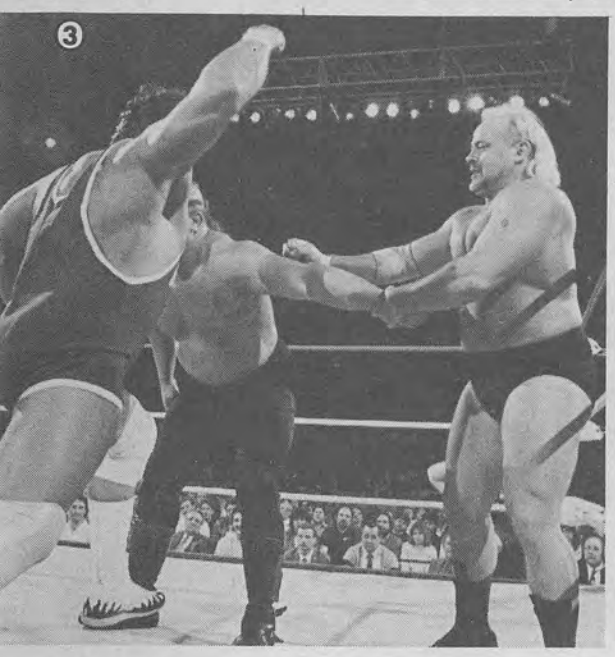


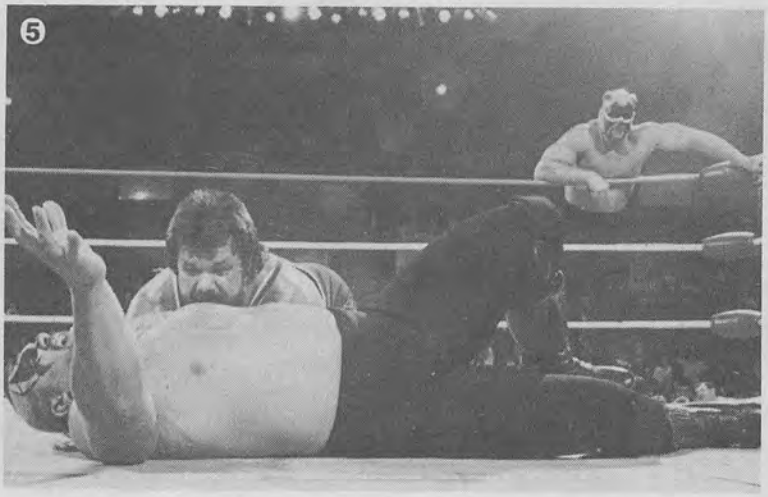
ROAD WARRIORS vs. KEVIN SULLIVAN & STEVE WILLIAMS



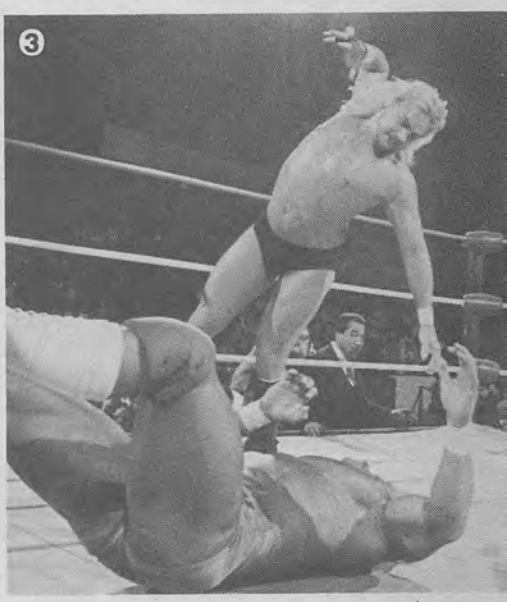
Sullivan and Williams held the U.S. tag team title, but the Warriors' World tag belts were on the line in this encounter.

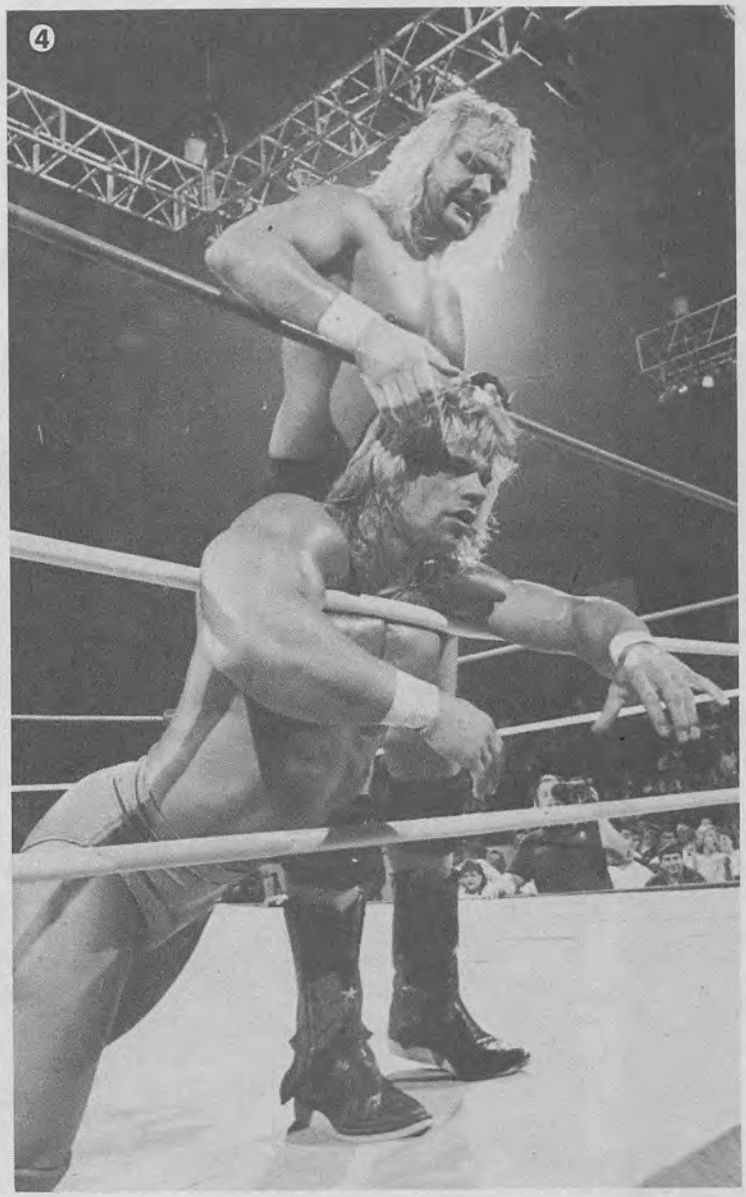
1. Hawk backs Sullivan into the ropes.
2. Williams grabs a tuft of Animal's hair as he locked up with Sullivan.
3. "Dr. Death" and Sullivan work over Animal's arm.
4. Animal gives "Dr. Death" a thunderous powerslam.
5. Williams works over Animal on the mat. The Warriors retained the title when Hawk pinned Sullivan. Williams also had Animal pinned, but Sullivan and Hawk were the legal men in the ring.





LEX LUGER vs. BARRY WINDHAM

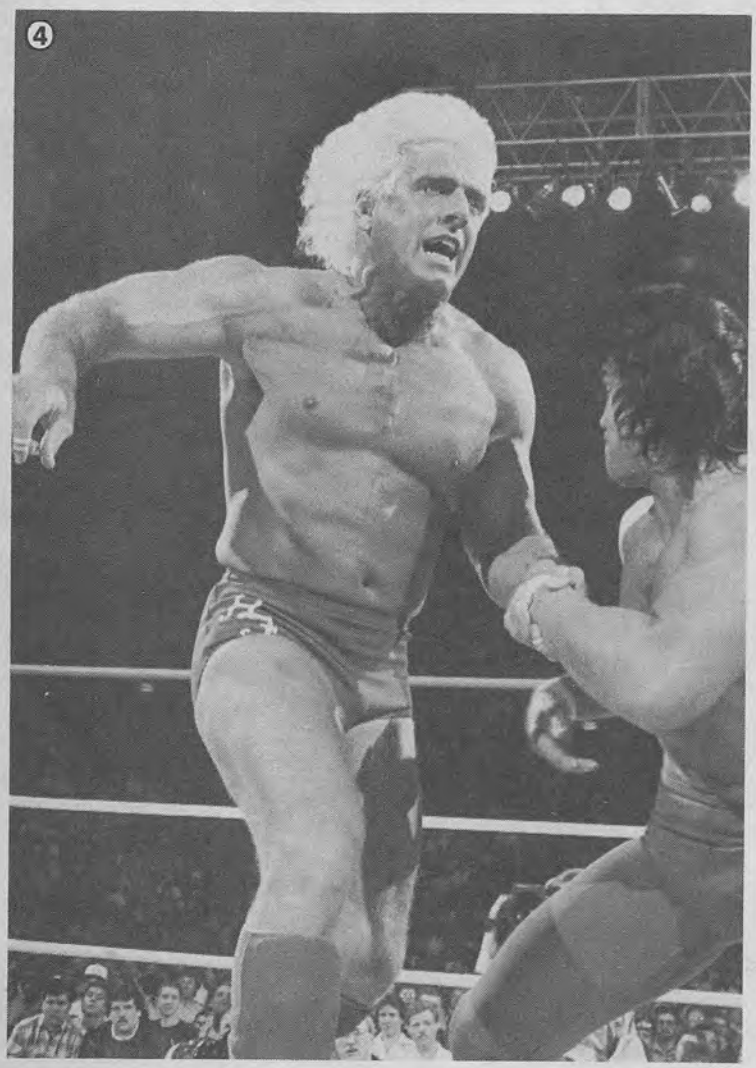




Once tag team partners, now Luger and Windham were battling for Windham's U.S. title.

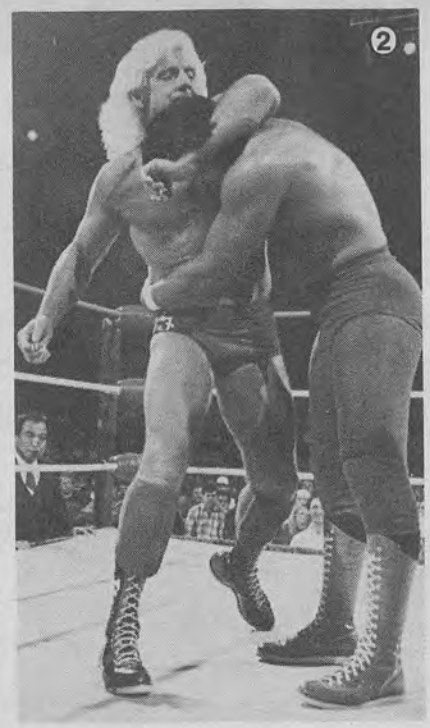
1. Luger gives Windham a spinecrusher.
2. Windham executes a clothesline.
3. Windham targets Luger for his clawhold.
4. Luger is down and in trouble.
5. Windham aims Luger at the timekeeper's table.
6. Windham tries to pin Luger with a back suplex, but ends up pinning himself.

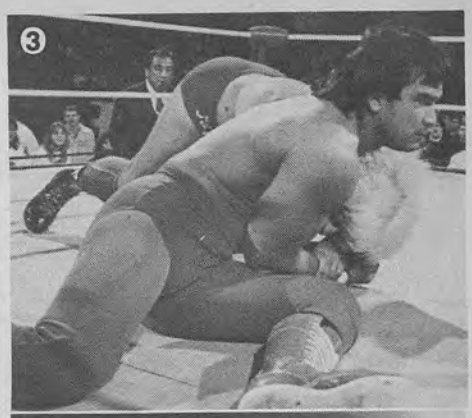
RICK STEAMBOAT vs. RIC FLAIR

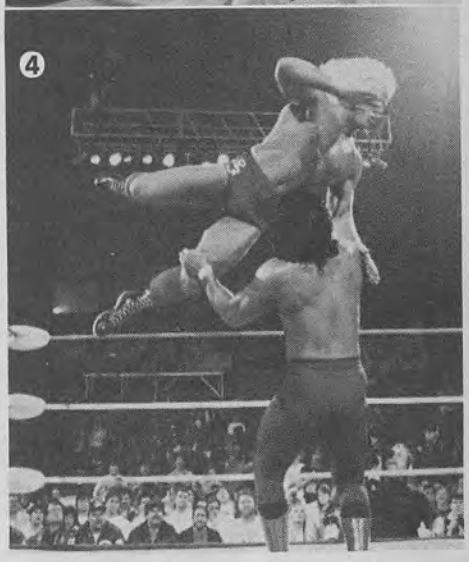


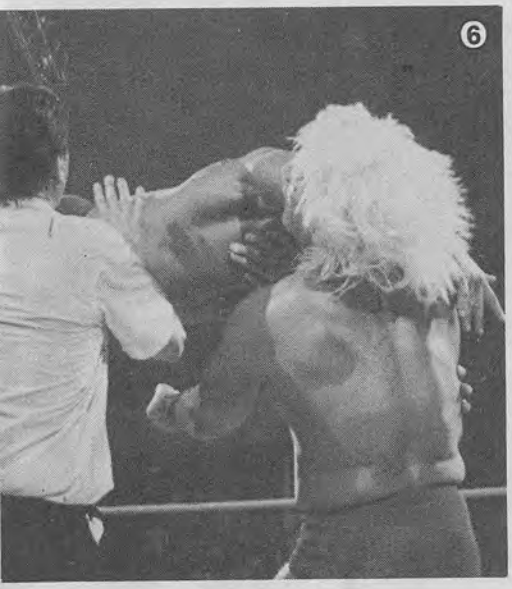
This was the match everyone was waiting for: Steamboat vs. Flair for the NWA World title.

1. Flair reaches for the ropes to break Steamboat's headlock.
2. The two intense competitors are about to lock up.
3. Flair rolls up "The Dragon" in an unsuccessful pin attempt.
4. Steamboat whips Flair across the ring.
5. Steamboat catches Flair with a forearm.

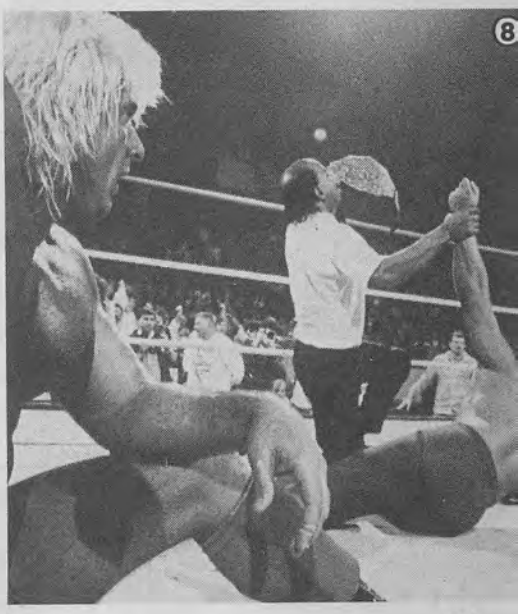




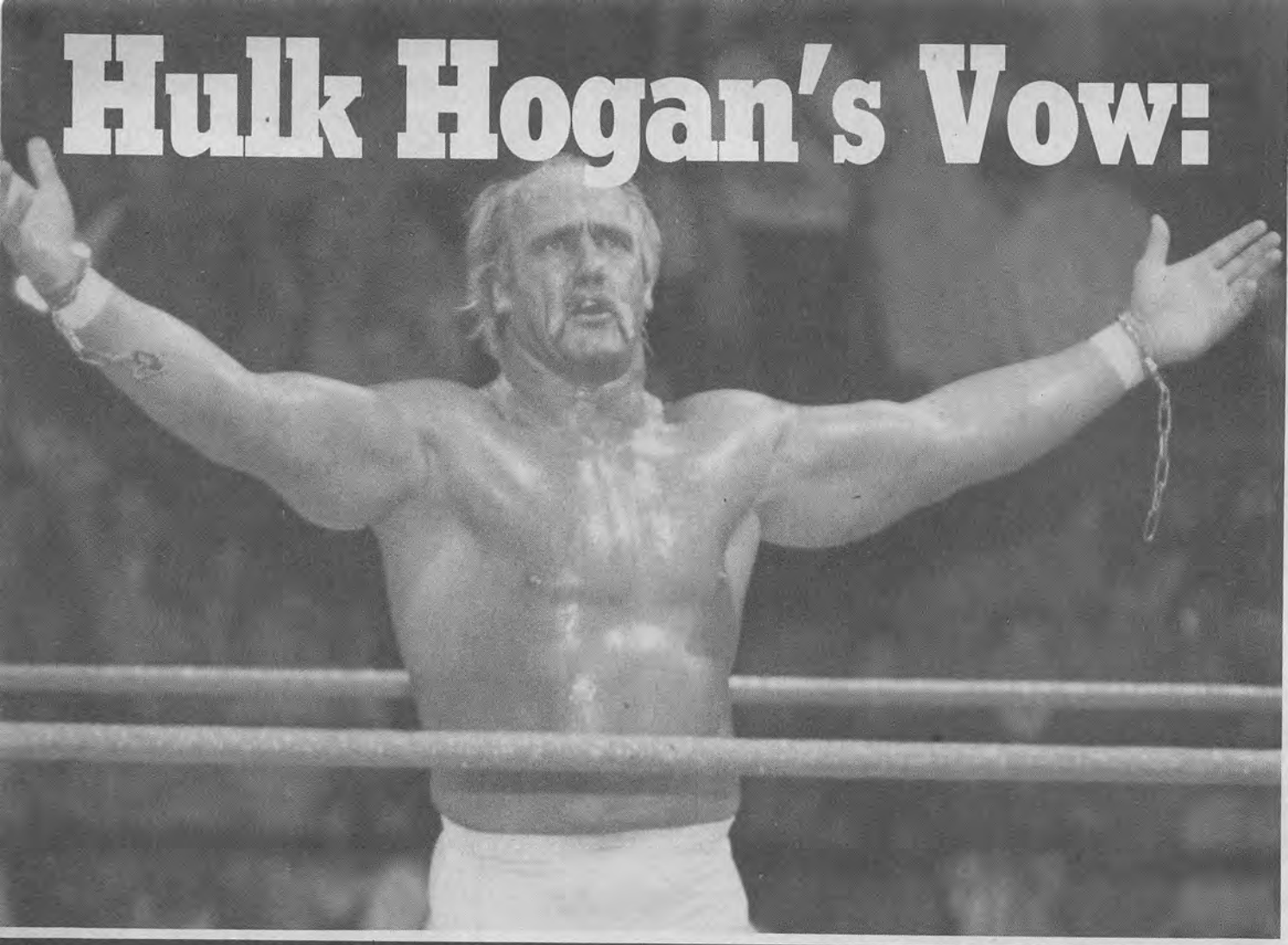




1. The "Nature Boy" whips Steamboat to the ropes.
2. Flair tries to break Steamboat's grip with a headlock.
3. Steamboat headlocks Flair. In the background is Flair's manager Hiro Matsuda.
4. Flair executes a flying bodypress.
5. Flair uses the ropes for leverage on a pin attempt.
6. "The Dragon's" flying bodypress catches Flair *and* referee Tommy Young.
7. Steamboat rolls up Flair in a small package to gain the pinfall victory.
8. Exhausted, Flair watches Teddy Long award Steamboat the title belt.



Hulk Hogan's Vow:



THE TWIN TOWERS MEGAPOWER

THE FACT THAT Big Bossman has been pinned several times by Hulk Hogan since February 3, and that the Twin Towers are no longer considered a major threat to Demolition's WWF World tag belts, might merely be coincidence.

Just don't bet on it.

The fact that the Twin Towers were the opposition when Hogan and Randy Savage went to war on February 3 might also be part of that same coincidence.

Don't bet on that, either.

And, of course, there's always the chance that after WrestleMania V, Hogan will forget about the Twin Towers and, win or lose, concentrate on Savage.

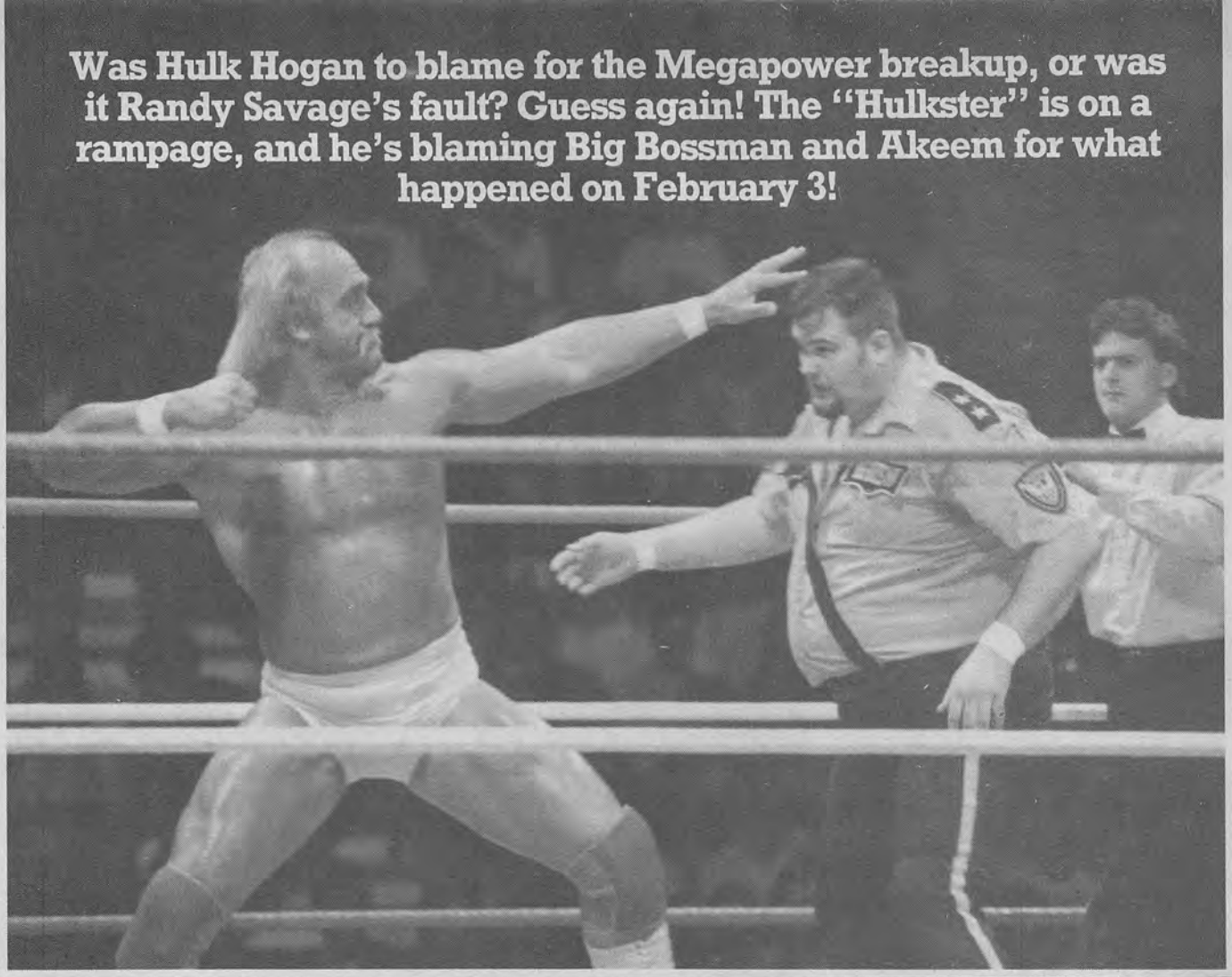
But you'd *better* not bet on that!

What we have here is a variation of the "My son's a good boy" theory that's been used for generations by mothers around the world. It goes something like this: The mother thinks her son is the most innocent, loving person in the world and isn't capable of doing wrong. So whenever something goes wrong involving the son, she feels someone else is to blame.

Occasionally, the "My son's a good boy" theory applies to friendships. The recent Hogan-Savage situation is an excellent example of this.

Hogan and Savage were best friends for more than a year. Their past wars had been forgotten, and the Megapowers alliance was the

Was Hulk Hogan to blame for the Megapower breakup, or was it Randy Savage's fault? Guess again! The "Hulkster" is on a rampage, and he's blaming Big Bossman and Akeem for what happened on February 3!



WILL PAY FOR THE MELTDOWN!

strongest in the WWF. In fact, if Hogan and Savage had decided to go after the World tag belts, they probably would have been successful in record time. The relationship between the Megapowers was strong enough for Hogan to say he "loves Savage like a brother and Elizabeth like a sister."

Then came the now-famous incident in Milwaukee on February 3. Although the events of that evening have been told and retold, one important fact bears repeating: *Akeem* tossed Savage out of the ring twice, and it was the *second* time that the "Macho Man" landed on Elizabeth, knocking her unconscious. It seems clear that Akeem *meant* to throw Savage into Elizabeth!

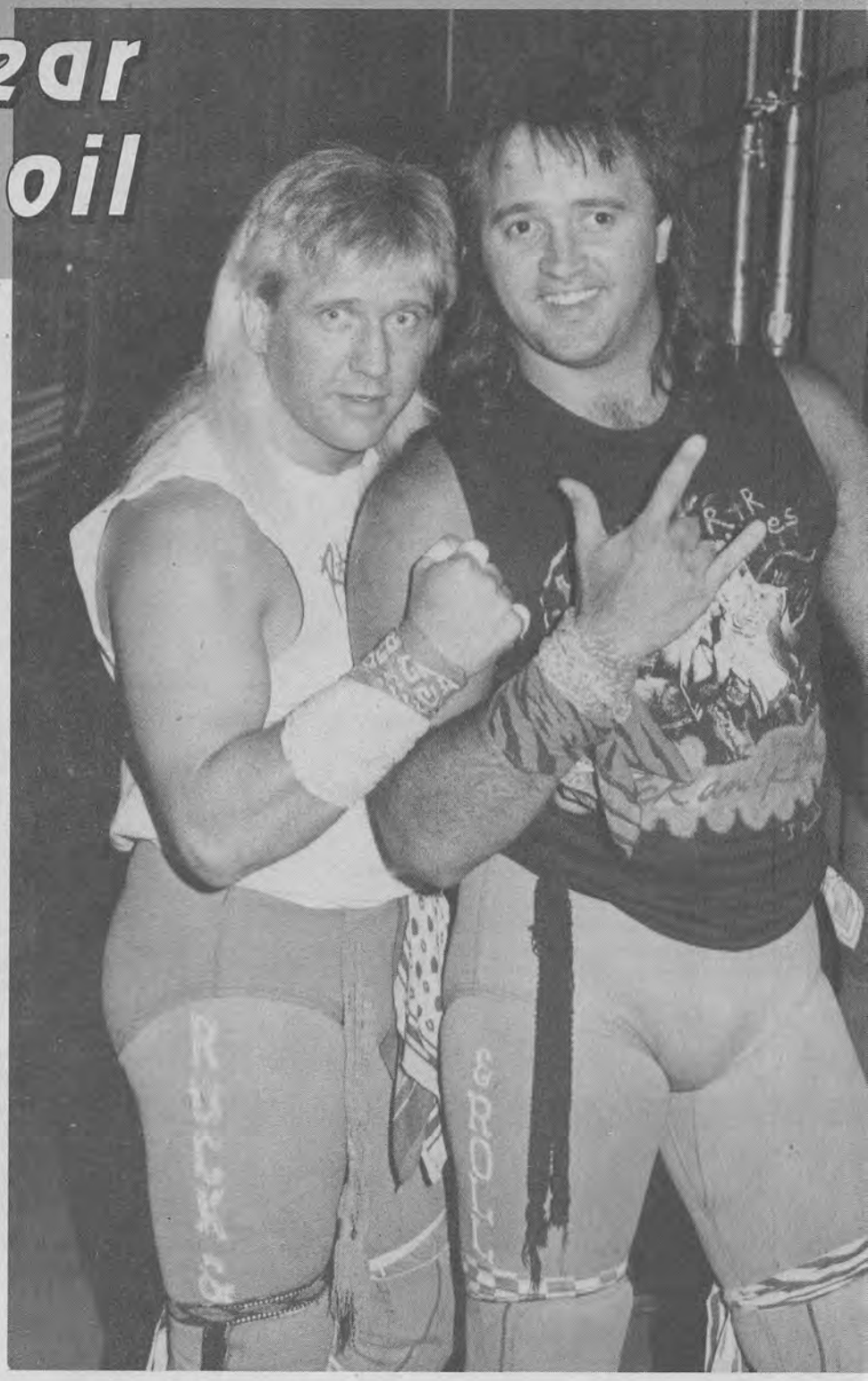
So, by some selective reasoning, Hogan has deduced that the Twin Towers are as much to blame for the Megapowers breakup as Savage. After all, if Elizabeth hadn't been knocked out, Hogan wouldn't have had to carry her back for help. And if that hadn't happened, Savage couldn't have accused Hogan of deserting him and lusting after Elizabeth.

It's the "My son's a good boy" theory taken to a new extreme. Except this time, it's the "My former partner's a good man" theory, and the Twin Towers—who for once appear totally innocent—are about to feel Hogan's wrath.

"It's an absolutely ridiculous situation," WWF expert Thomas

(Continued on page 54)

A Year Of Turmoil



IT WAS SEPTEMBER 29, 1987, a night like any other night in the small town of Misenheimer, North Carolina, except that there was a wrestling card in the arena and The Rock 'n' Roll Express were defending their NWA World tag team championship against archrivals Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson.

Certainly, their belts were in danger. But who could have guessed that the Rock 'n' Rolls' loss that night in Misenheimer would send them on a terrifying journey to the dark side of the sport? Who could have guessed what the next 15 months would hold?

Yes, hell had a wrestling tenant in 1988. It's a wonder that The Rock 'n' Roll Express managed to survive.

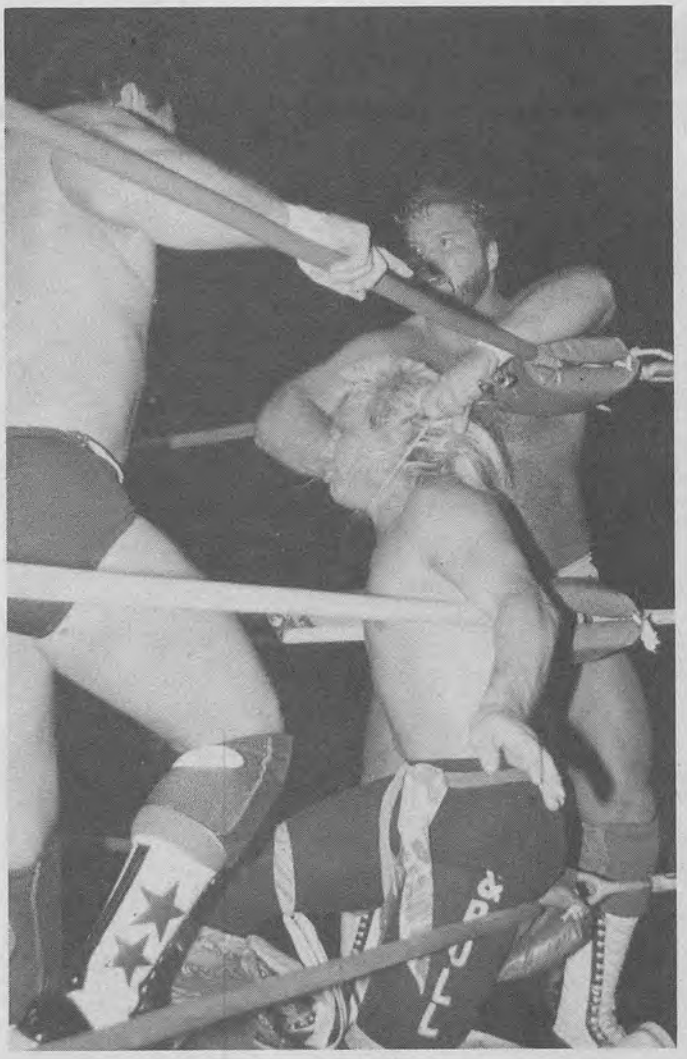
"The worst period of my life?" Rick Morton asked rhetorically. "Well, let me see. We lost the NWA World tag belts, we were robbed of the AWA belts, we lost the WOW and Southern championships to inferior teams, me and Robert broke up twice, the fans turned against us once, and we turned against each other once. Yeah, I'd say it was pretty bad."

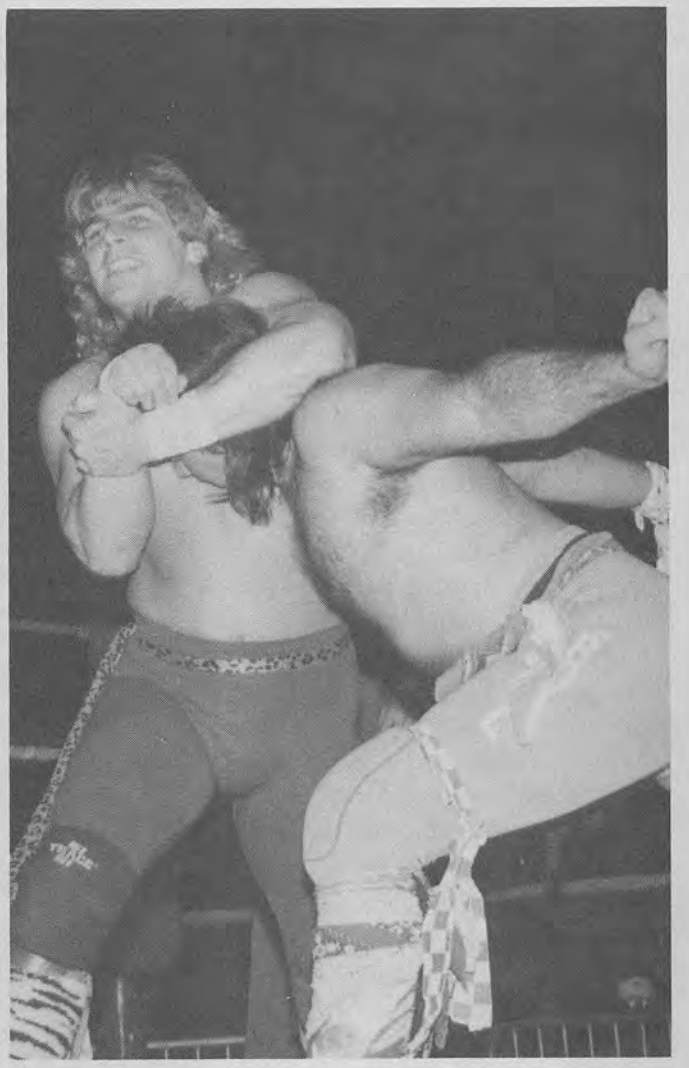
The only thing the Rock 'n' Rolls did avoid was serious injury. "That's definitely something to be very thankful for," Robert Gibson said, "but the only other thing we're thankful for is that we're still together. Let me tell ya something, if we could get through this, we can get through anything."

Of course, it's not over yet. Years and days might have a definite ending, but hell doesn't go by a calendar. Brief good fortune

Any team can get through the good times. But it takes a special team, and a special relationship between teammates, to get through the tough times. Rick Morton and Robert Gibson, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, survived the bad times . . . but it wasn't easy

HOW THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS SURVIVED HELL





Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson double-team Rick Morton (above left). Shawn Michaels headlocks Robert Gibson (above right). The Rock 'n' Rolls have always been one of the top teams in the sport, but they recently experienced a string of bad luck that even split them apart for a while. They're together again and they say they're as strong as ever.

does not necessarily put an end to bad fortune. It should be pointed out that Morton and Gibson rarely wrestle as a team anymore. Morton, in fact, is wrestling in Memphis while Gibson is wrestling in Atlantic Coast Wrestling.

The bad fortune started for the Rock 'n' Rolls when their fourth NWA World tag title reign ended in Misenheimer, but things didn't start to go really wrong until a few months later when Blanchard and Anderson began denying them title shots. In late January of 1988, Morton and Gibson failed to appear for a match at the Nassau Coliseum in New York, and not more than a few weeks later the entire country knew that the Rock 'n' Rolls, the most steady team in the NWA for years, had left the NWA.

Hundreds of thousands of NWA fans mourned their departure. Most couldn't believe they had left. After all, Morton and Gibson were a staple of the NWA. It was hard to imagine the federation without them. "We just had to leave," Gibson said, "but I guess when you look at it in retrospect,

(Continued on page 56)

INTERVIEW

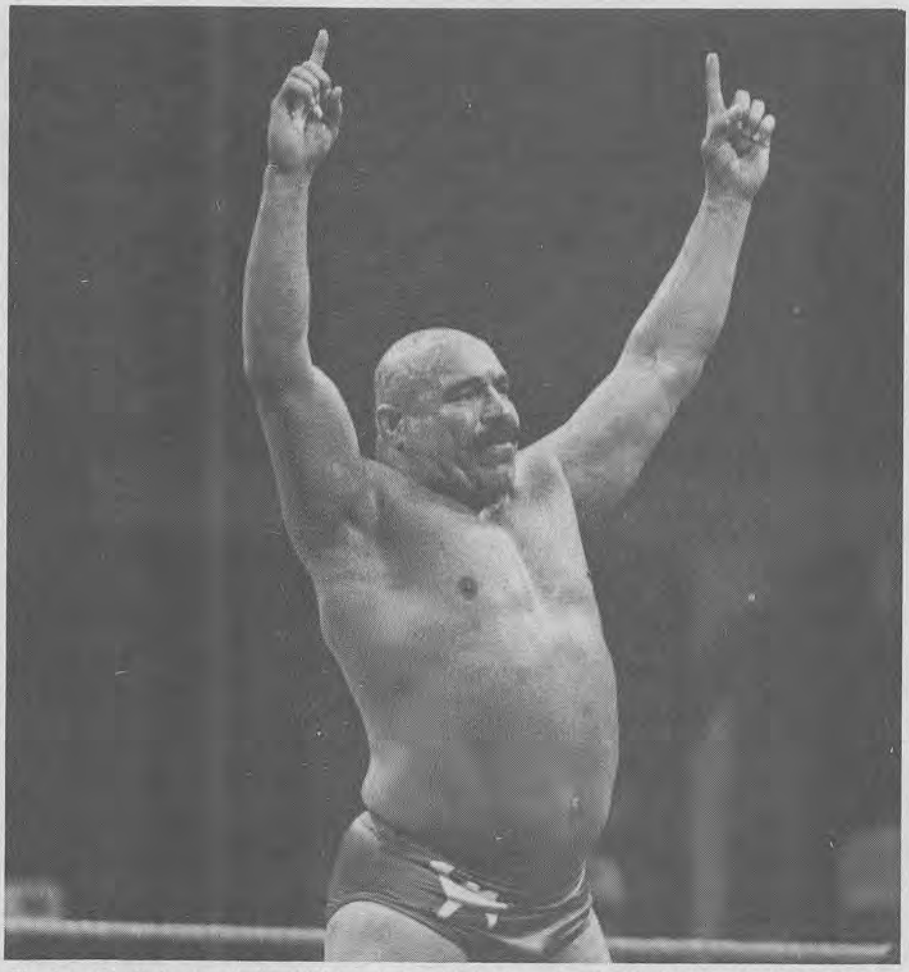
THE IRON SHEIK

IT IS A war that may never end. Sgt. Slaughter, a man who has long proclaimed himself as America's greatest hero, recently resumed his long-standing feud with The Iron Sheik, his Iranian nemesis, in the AWA. Never have there been two men who more passionately extolled the virtues of their respective countries—and never has there been a feud quite as ferocious. After five years of bloody battles, neither wrestler can claim he is the true winner in this rivalry.

Surprisingly, the Slaughter-Sheik war may have to be put on hold once again. Sheik, backed up by Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie and Col. DeBeers, had engaged in several violent battles with the former Marine drill instructor, but in March, Sheik left the AWA and entered the NWA. He immediately announced that his first goal was to win the NWA World title from new champion Rick Steamboat. A former WWF World champion, Sheik claims he still possesses the skills that can bring him to the top of the wrestling world again.

Sheik wants to become only the second man to hold both the WWF and NWA World titles (Buddy Rogers was the first), but many other NWA wrestlers would love to cut him down, short of his goal. Ranger Ross, a veteran of the U.S. Army, is incensed at the Sheik's openly anti-American comments. In addition, Ivan Koloff, another former WWF champion, claims he has some unfinished business with the Iranian.

Despite these challenges, Sheik is forging ahead with his efforts to obtain a title shot. He has returned to the training regimen he used in 1983, when he defeated Bob Backlund for the WWF title. Sheik can once again be seen swinging his Persian clubs before matches. He also seems to have become even more outspoken with his anti-American comments, perhaps trying to incense the NWA championship committee into granting him a title match.



The Iron Sheik is now in the NWA and after Rick Steamboat's World title. The hated Iranian once held the WWF World title for 28 days and is now intent on proving that he is still world championship material.

Whatever the reason, the Sheik is wrestling with newfound vitality and drive, and looks to be in outstanding physical condition. Managing Editor Craig Peters took a chartered flight to Atlanta to speak to a rejuvenated Sheik as the veteran rulebreaker prepared for an appearance on SuperStation TBS' World Championship Wrestling.

Q: Sheik, you surprised just about everybody by leaving the AWA in the middle of your war with Sgt. Slaughter. Why did you decide to come to the NWA at this point in your career?

A: It is not hard to figure, Mr. Magazine Man Peters. The great Iron Sheik has been the uncrowned world champion for years. I beat Howdy Doody Bob Backlund for WWF title in 1983, but that is in the past now. Today, I want the NWA World title. I want to be first man since great Buddy Rogers, who once managed me, to hold two of the three world titles. I am here to meet and defeat this Rick Steamboat, a man I beat many times in the WWF.

Q: What? I've never seen you pin Steamboat. Are you sure you're talking about the right guy?

A: Who are you to question the great Sheik? You are supposed to be intelligent American writer, so use your head. I beat Steamboat many times, sir, just like I beat everyone else in the WWF. I should be granted a title shot against him based on my past record, but it's just like you coward Americans to refuse great Iranian Olympic champion his opportunity. So now I am out to prove to the NWA that I am still of championship caliber. I will prove I am still the greatest wrestler in the world, the same way I have against Slaughter.

Q: Slaughter claims he's not through with you yet, though. He insists that the only reason you left the AWA is because he was getting the better of you in your feud. He says you ran away when things got too hot.

A: Another falsehood from another lying American. Is that fat, balding stooge really the best your country can do, Peters? I destroyed Slaughter Sergeant several times during the past few months. If he had any guts, he would come to NWA to challenge me again. But you will never see that happen. I have ended the myth of your great American hero. I proved that Iran's best can always top America's best. He has been beaten too badly to ever challenge me again.

The Sheik bites into Ivan Koloff's shoulder. Koloff is glad that the Sheik is back in the NWA, where he can get revenge for an incident several years ago when the Iranian tried to cripple him. Sheik also welcomes the challenge.

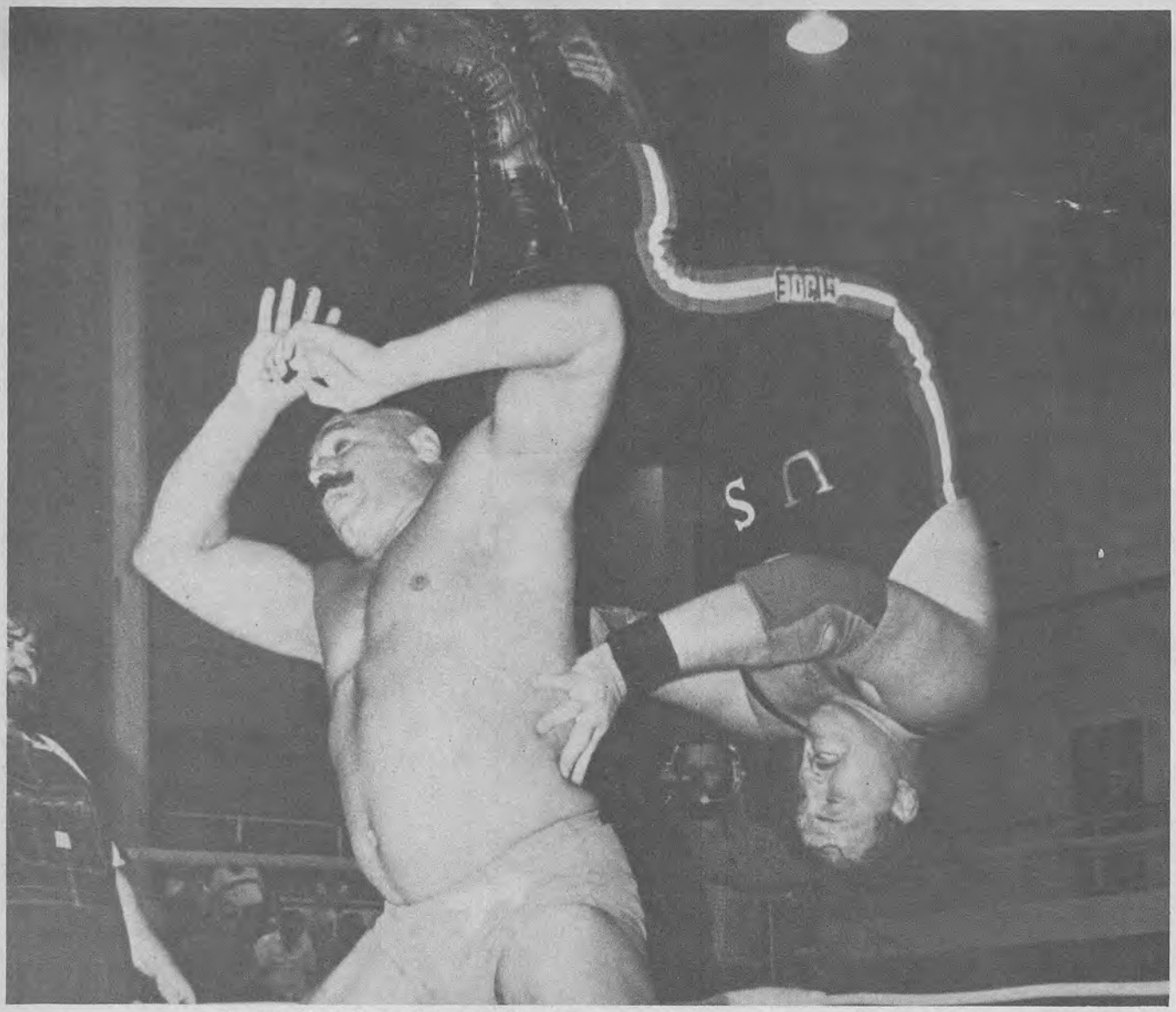
Q: That remains to be seen. You won't have much trouble finding new opponents to wrestle in the NWA. Ivan Koloff, with whom you had a feud in the Mid-Atlantic region a few years ago, said recently that he was glad you were back. He claims he wants revenge for your trying to cripple him during a match.

A: That is a very good joke, Peters. I thought old Koloff had retired long ago! It is a shame to see him continue his wrestling career when it is clear to everyone that he is well past his prime. It appears that his memory is not what it once was. If it was, he would remember how I made him bleed many years ago. Why does he want to suffer more of this kind of pain? That Russian is almost as stupid as you Americans.

Q: You know, your anti-American bias is pretty offensive, and I'm certainly not the only one who feels this way. Ranger Ross, a talented young wrestler, has come into the NWA from the Southern Championship area. He's been petitioning NWA officials for some matches against you, and claims he owes it to America to try and shut you up for good.

A: Who is this Ross? Another young, misguided American preliminary wrestler who wants to get the beating of his worthless life? Another man like Slaughter? I don't have time for this kind of nonsense. I only want to meet Steamboat in a match for the title.

Q: Do you really think you are capable of winning a world champion-



The Iron Sheik flips archrival Sgt. Slaughter to the mat. Their long-running feud will now be put on hold as the Sheik goes after the NWA World championship.

ship at this stage of your career? After all, it's been five years since you held the WWF title, and you held that one for only a month when Hogan beat you.

A: Another lie. Hogan never beat me, Mr. Journalist. His victory was a plot to keep great Iranian from being World champion for too long. It was a bogus referee, a bogus decision, and everything else about the match was set up so that Sheik could not possibly win. Hogan is nothing more than a suntanned clown from California. As for my current condition, just take a good look at me. I am in better shape than ever before. Look at this physique!

Q: It's still very impressive, but I have to be honest with you: It really pales in comparison to people like Sting and Lex Luger.

A: Sting? Luger? I will be more than happy to show them what a real athlete is like. This Luger fellow has the prestigious U.S. title, which I would like to capture and take back to Iran. That would be just desserts for all these stupid U.S. wrestling fans. As for Sting, he is a young man, and he looks to present a fair challenge. But he is from Venice Beach, the same place that Hogan comes from. That means he has a big body, but a very small mind as well. That also means he should be very easy to vanquish.

Q: I have a feeling you're taking these men a bit too lightly. After all, you're going to have to gain a winning record before they consider you for title matches. You can't just walk into the NWA and get championship shots—you're going to have to *prove* your worth. Perhaps you made a mistake by leaving Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, who managed you back in the AWA.

A: There should be no need to prove my worth. Steamboat knows what kind of a wrestler I am. The NWA knows what kind of a wrestler I am. As for having a manager, I have used many in the past few years. I have come to the conclusion that for right now, I don't really need one. Al-Kaissie did nothing wrong. He is one of the

proud warriors of Iraq, but for now I am more than prepared to make all my own decisions.

Q: Was it your decision to sing the Iranian national anthem before your matches now? You make Nikolai Volkoff sound like Luciano Pavarotti.

A: Your insolent comments are not funny. This is supposed to be the land of the free and the home of the brave, but every time someone from a foreign land tries to make a statement, you always try to censor him. On the other hand, when an outrage like that Rushdie book comes out, you try to protect it, calling it freedom of the press. You Americans are not fooling the rest of the world. This country says it is free, but if I sing the glorious song of my country, I get objects thrown at me by the fans. But I do not care. I will sing the Iranian anthem before all my matches from now on. It is the song that will lead me to victory against Steamboat.

Q: You're going to need a lot more than a catchy tune to defeat a man of the caliber of Steamboat. Sheik, I'll be honest with you, you seem to being going through a career re-birth, but I'd be willing to bet that this champion is too much for you to handle.

A: You keep your comments to yourself, you biased American reporter. I have the secret for becoming NWA champion. I have the camel clutch. I have the almighty Ayatollah and the great country of Iran to support me. And I already know what it is to be a champion. I know what it is defeat Slaughter. I know how to drive the United States to its knees.

Q: We'll see about that. In any event, Sheik, I thank you for this interview

A: I do not thank you. You have tried to put the Sheik down. You will eat your words when you see what I have in store for the NWA. Nobody will ever have try to put me down again after I win the World championship. □

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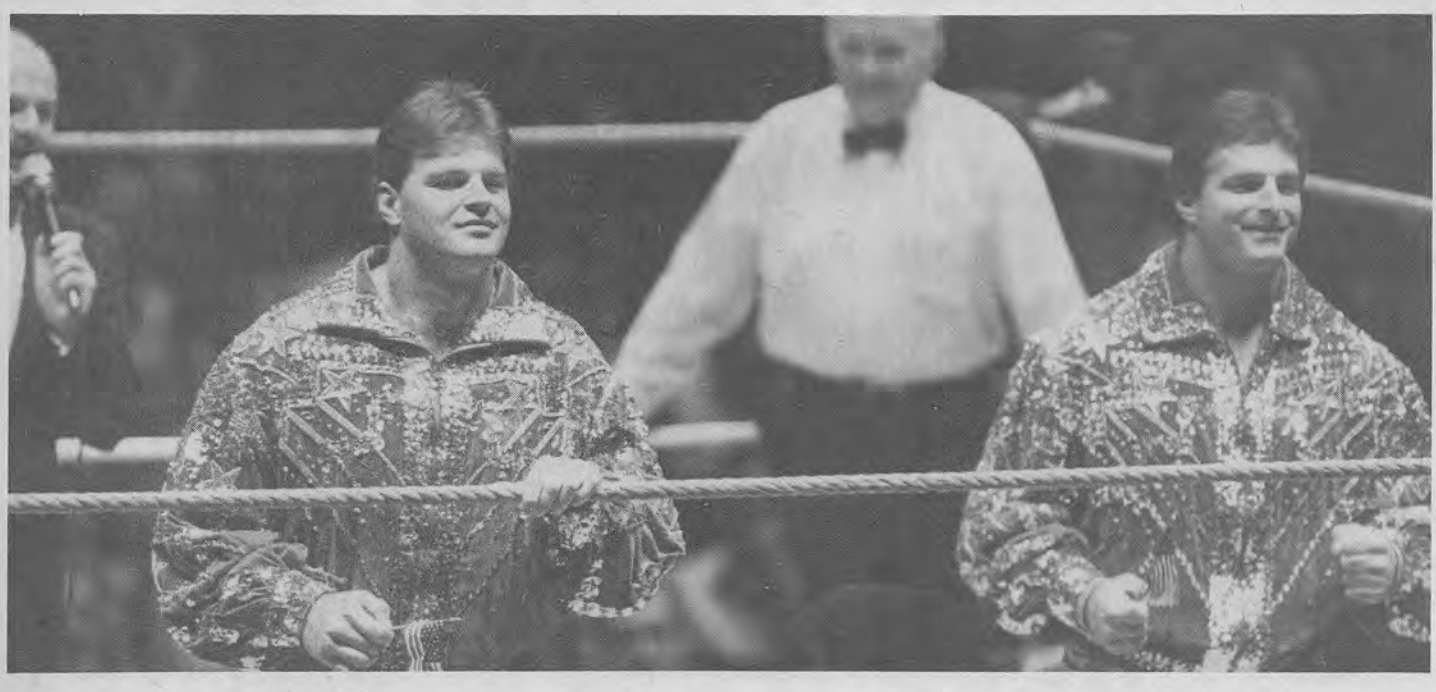

WHO'S *REALLY* FIGH

By Bob Smith

JACQUES AND RAYMOND Rougeau were one of the most popular tag teams in the WWF. They made other people happy, but they were not happy themselves. They were stuck in a rut. After months of compiling a winning record but not gaining many title matches, the veteran Canadian stars took an unexpected turn for the worse. They decided to become rulebreakers.

Butch Miller and Luke Williams, The Sheepherders, were one of the most hated teams in the NWA, but they, too, realized they were stuck in a rut. After months of compiling a winning record but not gaining many title matches, the veteran New Zealanders took an unexpected turn and left for the WWF. They decided to become fan favorites.

Who would have believed it? The Rougeaus are one of the most despised teams in the WWF, while Williams and Miller, who've changed their nickname to The Bushwhackers, have become one of the federation's hottest tandems. Compounding the confusion is the fact that each of these teams is now waving the flag and have proclaimed themselves loyal residents of the United States.

But does either team really have any credibility as American heroes?

Who's *really* fighting for America?

Some strange things are happening in the ever-changing WWF. Once fan favorites, The Rougeau Brothers are one of the most hated teams in the federation—and the once-hated Bushwhackers are among the most popular. Both are claiming to love the United States, but there's a good chance they're *both* lying

The Bushwhackers

Photos by David Fitzgerald

TING FOR AMERICA?

Last spring, the Rougeaus were clearly established as a superior team, merging their on-the-mat moves with some stunning aerial maneuvers. During one night in April, a scheduling fluke pitted them against B. Brian Blair and Jim Brunzell, The Killer Bees, in what many believed would be a classic scientific matchup. To the fans' dismay, the Rougeaus startled the Bees with brutal tactics, capturing a disputed victory after catching their opponents off-guard.

"I couldn't believe it," said Blair, the victim of a brutal double-team attack. "These guys wrestled scientifically for months, but against us they turned into thugs. They played their fans, their opponents, and even their friends for suckers. Since then, their tactics have gotten even worse."

During the summer, the Rougeaus hired the infamous Jimmy Hart as their new manager. Suddenly, the Canadian duo began bringing small U.S. flags to the ring with them, waving them sarcastically at the fans before and after every match. More recently, they've even gone so far as to move to Memphis, Tennessee—Hart's hometown—and record a new theme, "All-American Boys," which plays as they strut toward the ring.

"They're not Americans," Blair complained, "but they *definitely* are liars. These guys are no closer to being Americans than I am to being a Canadian. It doesn't matter if they've moved to the U.S. or not. They smile and they wave their flags, but all they care about is taking hard-earned American money from the fans."

At the same time the Rougeaus were changing their ways, The Sheepherders were engaging in their usual festival of headbusting in the NWA. In April, Williams and Miller were having problems with their flagbearer, Johnny Ace, whose main function was to bring the New Zealand colors to the ring for each match.

By May, Williams and Miller fired Ace and replaced him with an original Sheepherder, Rip Morgan. The new threesome was successful, but they failed to receive matches for the NWA World tag team championship.

"It was bloody frustratin'," said Morgan, who continues to wrestle in the NWA. "Butch and Luke used to get mad 'cause they got passed over for all the bloody big events. One day, Butch just turned to Luke and said, 'Let's

get the hell out of here. Let's change our ways and take the world by storm.' And that's exactly what those two ol' dogs went and did."

Bidding Morgan goodbye, The Sheepherders left the NWA for the WWF late last fall. To everybody's surprise—especially Morgan's—The Sheepherders became The Bushwhackers. They began courting fan support wherever they went. They even started extolling the virtues of the American way of life!

"What the hell's going through their minds?" asked a perplexed Morgan. "They used to hate this country and everything it stood for. Now, they've stopped carrying the colors of New Zealand. They're even praising this cesspool of a country! What're those bloody wankers doin'?"

Mainly, they are winning—even against The Rougeau Brothers. At Madison Square Garden in New York, Miller and Williams recently defeated the Rougeaus with their manic, anything-goes style of brawling. The fans loved it, especially when The Bushwackers started some pro-American cheers.

It's clear that many fans enjoy The Bushwhackers' supposed patriotism as much as they hate the Rougeaus' flag-waving frenzy. Everybody's intentions seem clear, but one big question remains. Is either team *really* sincere in their "love" for America?

"I don't know about those New Zealanders, but those Canadians don't love this country," insists Blair. "They're only using this pro-America stuff to anger their opponents. Let's face it. It really works."

"I think I see what Butch and Luke are up to," Morgan reasoned. "Those guys are just waiting for the right moment to strike against a new 'friend' like Demolition or The Rockers. Then, when the time comes, The Bushwhackers will start tearin' up all the American wrestlers. *Bloody* lovely, tell your mother!"

Perhaps The Bushwhackers are doing the same thing the Rougeaus are, but the fans simply don't realize it yet. It's very possible that today's Bushwhackers could turn into tomorrow's Rougeaus.

And they could be just as much of a disgrace. □

Luke Williams digs his teeth into Jacques Rougeau's nose (above), but Jacques regains the advantage (below). Both foreign teams say they are fighting for America, a claim that should be looked at with skepticism.

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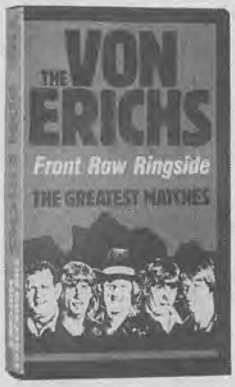

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5. Cut down on total fat intake from animal sources and fats and oils.
6. Avoid obesity.
7. Be moderate in consumption of alcoholic beverages.

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 7)

he first came on the scene, but Ninja has gone nowhere. He's now a hitman for Gen. Skandor Akbar.

RANDY BRAND
Metairie, LA

SEND IN THE CLOWNS

I have enjoyed wrestling for some years, but I have to say that in the past two years the WWF has presented the most comical characters I've ever seen in my life.

One Saturday, my little girl came running to me after watching the WWF. "Mommy," she said, "I want to go to the circus. Please, Mommy, please take me." You see, the WWF was coming to Nashville in three weeks. She said, "Mommy, the Red Rooster will be there, and Hercules, Jake with his snake, a man with his hacksaw, and a giant." She really thought this was a circus.

Keep it up, WWF. You are making a laughingstock out of yourself and making all the other federations worth watching. Your professional wrestlers are even funnier than Robin Williams, Eddie Murphy, or Whoopi Goldberg.

The WWF is good for small children who don't know any better, but if you want great wrestling, there's nothing better than the AWA and the NWA.

JENNIFER MORAN
McEwen, TN

HAS HIS DOUBTS

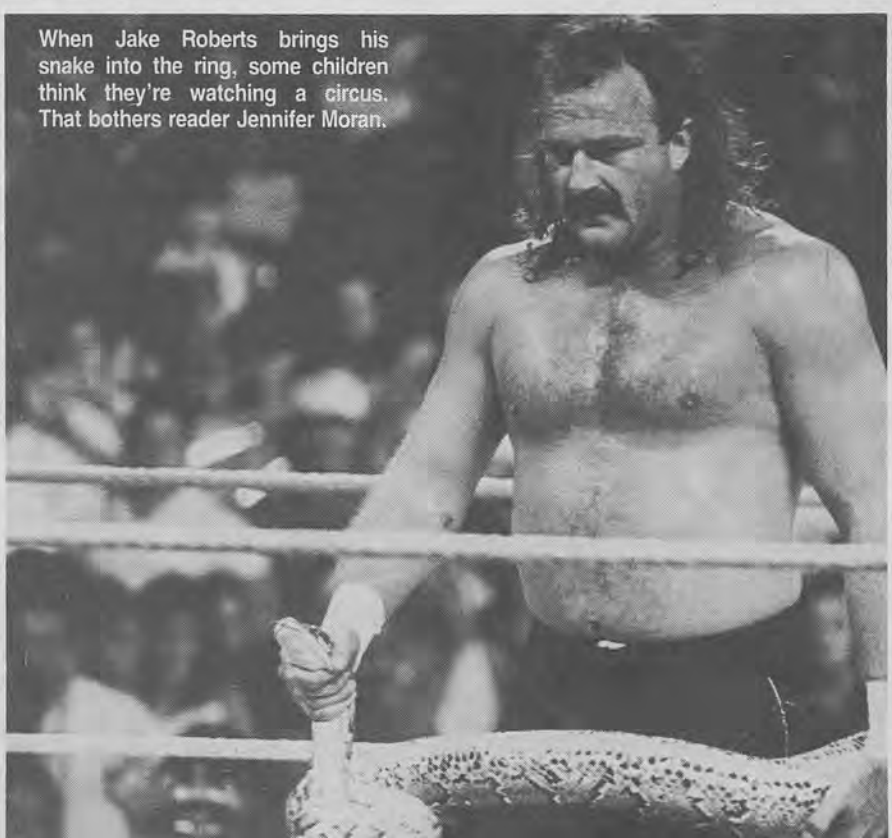
Ever since I started watching NWA wrestling, The Road Warriors have been my favorite tag team wrestlers. I loved it when they won the NWA World tag team championship, and I also loved it when they won the six-man tag belts with Dusty Rhodes.

But it made me sick when the Warriors beat up Sting and Lex Luger and when they bloodied Dusty with their spikes. They probably had their reasons for doing this, but I still think it was sick.

The Warriors are great wrestlers. I don't think they should have turned against Dusty and the rest, but if they decide to stay bad, I will stay behind them all the way.

JAMES VALDEZ
Mescalero, NM

(Continued on page 48)



When Jake Roberts brings his snake into the ring, some children think they're watching a circus. That bothers reader Jennifer Moran.

THIS MONTH IN...

The Wrestler

STING provides his exclusive report on **LEX LUGER'S** U.S. title victory over **BARRY WINDHAM**

ULTIMATE WARRIOR'S mission impossible: Destroy **RANDY SAVAGE** for **HULK HOGAN**

PLUS . . .

History proves: **RIC FLAIR** will regain his NWA belt in 65 days . . . AWA World champ **LARRY ZBYSZKO**: "You mutant spudheads better respect me—or else!" . . . **RICK MARTEL**: Ready to fulfill his promise of greatness . . . **RICK STEAMBOAT** is interviewed . . . "Spotlight" on **KERRY VON ERICH**

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in the June 1989 issue of
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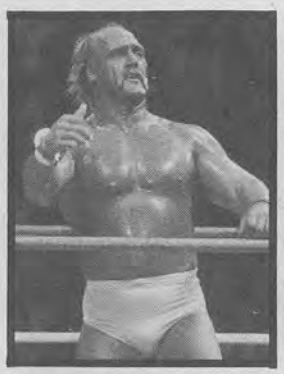
Inside Wrestling



Special fan poll: **HULKAMANIA** or **MACHO MADNESS**—
Which really rules?

Finally, fortune favors the challenger as **RICK STEAMBOAT** wins **RIC FLAIR'S** NWA World title

PLUS . . .

"Hotseat" interview with **LEX LUGER** . . . **RICK MORTON** and **ROBERT GIBSON**: They had to be enemies to become friends again . . . **JERRY LAWLER** and **LARRY ZBYSZKO** face off "One On One" . . . **JIMMY JACK FUNK**: "I'm not looking to replace **THE VON ERICHS**" . . . The most complete "Roll Call Of Champions" available anywhere

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SPECIAL ISSUE #1
For the first time ever, the March 1989 edition of *Sports Review Wrestling* presented a spectacular eight-page FULL-COLOR section—"1988: The Year In Pictures." It was an astounding review of the year's most important matches and events, and was available only in this once-in-a-lifetime magazine.

March 1989

SPECIAL ISSUE #2
A dynamic special section in the April 1989 issue of *Inside Wrestling* offered four pages of FULL-COLOR coverage of: The Survivor Series, SuperClash III, Battlestarr 88, and Clash of the Champions—Season's Beatings. Plus, an in-depth analysis places all these cards in historical perspective.

April 1989

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 46)

Rick Martel armlocks King Haku. Reader H. Rose Russell was thrilled when Martel, a former AWA World champion, returned to the WWF after recovering from a serious neck injury suffered at the hands of Demolition.

MARTEL IS BACK!

I am 23 years old and a big fan of Rick Martel's. I was totally shocked to learn a few months ago that Rick was forced to retire from the WWF because of head and neck injuries sustained at the hands of Demolition. I, along with millions of other fans, thought I'd never, ever see this outstanding, good-looking, young Canadian compete in the squared circle again. But on December 31, 1988, while watching *WWF Superstars of Wrestling*, I nearly jumped for joy when I heard that Rick was coming back!

It's about time the editors of wrestling magazines gave credit to the good guys. A person like Rick, who made an outstanding recovery after such a serious injury only months before, certainly deserves a lot of credit. I'm sick of seeing guys like Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage get all the credit just because they're popular with most of your readers. It's good, scientific wrestlers like Rick Martel that the WWF needs.

H. ROSE RUSSELL
Bonavista, Newfoundland ☐

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INQUIRING REPORTER

(Continued from page 16)

Lawler battles Kerry Von Erich. "The King" won the World Class title from Von Erich at SuperClash III. Though Lawler is no longer an officially recognized world champion, this feud remains a hot one.

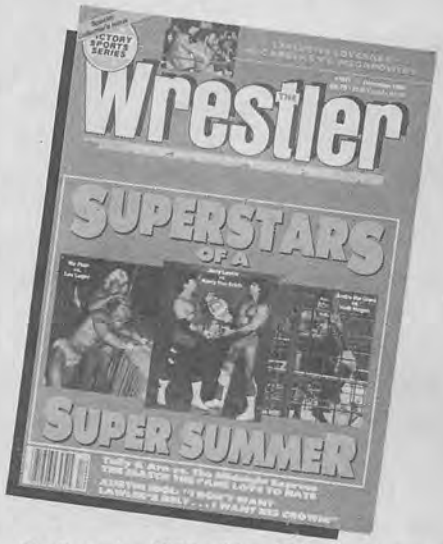
something, doesn't it? From the way Lawler described it, that new belt he wears was commissioned by the AWA, CWA, and World Class. Therefore, they must have considered him the champion of *all* those federations—at least symbolically—at one point. So why can't the unified belt count as a world title? As far as I'm concerned, Lawler's been a world champion since he beat Hennig. Whatever anybody else says doesn't really matter to me."

Billy Manchester, St. Paul, MN: "There are only three world titles in the wrestling world—the NWA, the AWA, and the WWF titles. The World Class belt isn't a world title, and neither are any others in any other federations. That's what makes Lawler's claim so hard for me to stomach. They stripped that coward of the belt because he was afraid to take on the AWA's big guns like Don Muraco and Sgt. Slaughter. I'm not a big fan of Larry Zbyszko either, but I hope he'll be a better champion than Lawler was. At least I know he won't be in Texas or Memphis or any of those other nowhere cities fighting contenders that aren't worth a damn."

James Korka, Houston: "This is another example of red tape getting in the way of human compassion, of meaningless rules and regulations clogging up the system. Blackburn, who now is thankfully retired, could have avoided stripping Lawler of the AWA belt with a couple of phone calls. I don't blame Lawler for this at all. Instead, I put the blame on AWA matchmakers. How can they book their champion for title matches when they're not sure if he can show up or not? Why didn't they avoid stripping one of the greatest wrestlers of the world of one of the greatest prizes in the world? Doesn't anybody care about the fans anymore?" □

THE EXCITEMENT LIVES ON!

THE SUPERSTARS OF A SUPER SUMMER!



The December 1988 edition of *The Wrestler* was a collectors' dream! It included a dynamic eight-page FULL-COLOR section featuring "The Superstars Of A Super Summer" competing in some of 1988's greatest cards and matches! Included in this exciting full-color section: Hulk Hogan, Sting, Randy Savage, Lex Luger, Rick Rude, The Ultimate Warrior, Jerry Lawler, Ric Flair, Hacksaw Duggan, The Fantastics, Dusty Rhodes, Ted DiBiase, Barry Windham, The Honky Tonk Man, and Nikita Koloff! Also included in this magnificent special issue is a full analysis of the summer's top action, plus all the regular *Wrestler* stories and features. This issue was a newsstand sellout, but we have a limited number of back issues available for the collectors' bargain price of only $5.00 each. Don't be disappointed—order yours today!

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(Continued from page 12)

Flair. Second greatest scientific wrestler ever next to me, and he's one of the most hated men ever. Like I said, the fans are idiots."

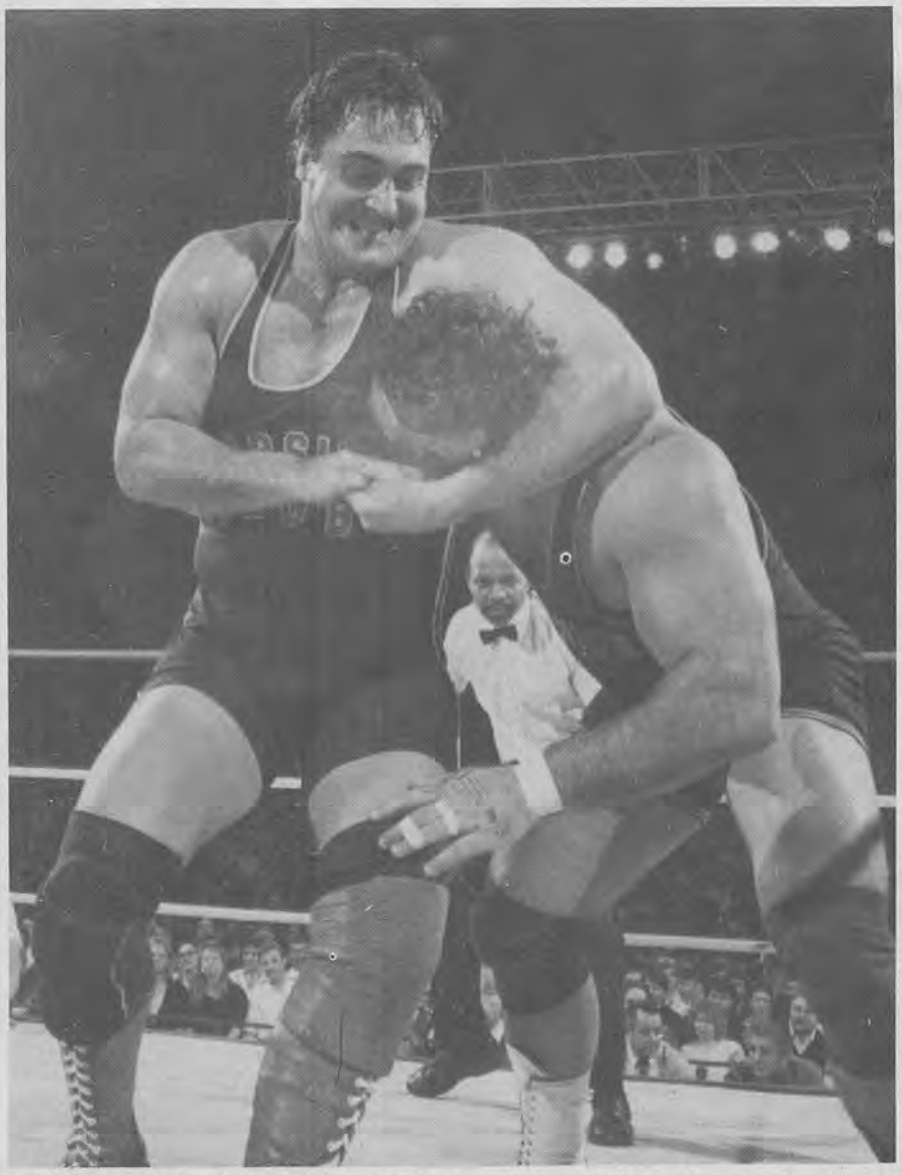
"Idiot" is a word he uses often to describe others, especially Rick Steiner. Rotundo calls his loss to Steiner at Starrcade '88 "the most humiliating moment of my life. Losing to an inferior product like him made me want to vomit." So Rotundo spent the next two months honing his scientific skills, building stamina, and avoiding overconfidence. "Steiner is a jackass," he said, "but I treated him like he had the brain of Einstein."

But if Einstein were a wrestler, he certainly wouldn't have made the kind of mistake that eventually cost Steiner the TV belt. "An idiotic mistake, something you'd *expect* from a man like Steiner," Rotundo said. "It was something so basic, it's hard to believe that even *he* could be *that* stupid. But let's face it, we're talking about man who has a pet fly and walks around with lipstick on his hand."

Steiner's mistake was lying down on his back while he had Rotundo caught in a sleeperhold. Rotundo didn't appear ready to lose consciousness, but he *was* severely weakened. And for three seconds—long enough for the referee to make the count—Steiner's shoulders were on the mat. In effect, Steiner pinned himself.

"Hilarious, wasn't it?" Rotundo said. "I spent all that time training, and the guy goes and pins himself. I don't think I've ever seen that happen before."

Incredibly, it happened again later in the evening. Barry Windham backdropped Lex Luger and had him rolled up for the pin. Windham, however, also had his own shoulder to the mat. Just prior to the three-count, Luger lifted his shoulder. Windham, who was in the act of pinning Luger, was himself pinned.



Rotundo headlocks Steiner during the Rumble title match. Rotundo won when Steiner pinned himself as he applied the sleeperhold. It was, in Rotundo's opinion, one of the most stupid things Steiner has done.

"Now that's not something you expect from Windham," Rotundo said. "I teamed with Barry for a long time, and he *never* made those kind of mistakes. In fact, I thought for a moment that Steiner's brain had been transplanted into Windham's head, but, hey, that kind of surgery isn't possible. *Ha!* Listen, there's a lot of luck involved in this game, but the most successful wrestlers are the ones that make their own luck. Luck is derivative of skill. That's something I've had to learn on my own."

He has learned well over the years. Mike Rotundo is a far better wrestler now than he was as a rookie in 1982. Well-schooled in the basics, he has learned the darker side of the sport from Sullivan. He has also learned to live without the cheers of the fans and the attention reserved for the elite superstars like Steamboat, Flair, Luger, and The Road Warriors.

But he's a wrestling champion. On February 20, Mike Rotundo's light shined as brightly as any other. □

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March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.
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August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.
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October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.
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August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourny, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.
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January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.
February 1987/Road Warriors,Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.
March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.
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July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.
August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.
September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.
October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourny.
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July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.
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TATTLER

(Continued from page 8)

THE FANTASTICS

ROANOKE RAPIDS, NC: Those trying to keep tabs on former NWA stars got all the "Where are they now?" answers they needed here recently on a recent North Carolina Wrestling Federation card. The night featured several bouts that could have been held in the NWA during 1987 or early 1988.

Rick Morton, who has been wrestling without his Rock 'n' Roll Express teammate Robert Gibson, battled to a 22-minute double-disqualification with Manny Fernandez, a former NWA World tag team champion. Jimmy Garvin pinned The Ultimate Russian, Nikita Koloff returned to beat Buddy Landell, and The Fantastics wrestled The Texas Outlaws to a 28-minute double-DQ.

"It's like old times," a happy Jimmy Garvin said after his victory. "Seriously, it's great to see some of the guys I've been with so long. There's been a big turnover in the NWA, but there was always great talent and all of us are gonna keep on going just like we did before."

The change in the NWA's talent pool has been most drastic since late last year, when Ted Turner bought the NWA from Jim Crockett Promotions. Morton and Gibson, however, had left earlier in the year while Nikita Koloff took a sabbatical to care for his wife Mandy, who is battling Hodgkin's disease.

By the way, Robert Gibson is teaming with his brother Rick in the Atlantic Coast Wrestling Federation. Robert Gibson and Morton insist, however, that they're back on good terms. "Me and Robert are like brothers," Morton said. "We had that brief misunderstanding in Memphis, but now everything's cleared up."

—Ken Miranda

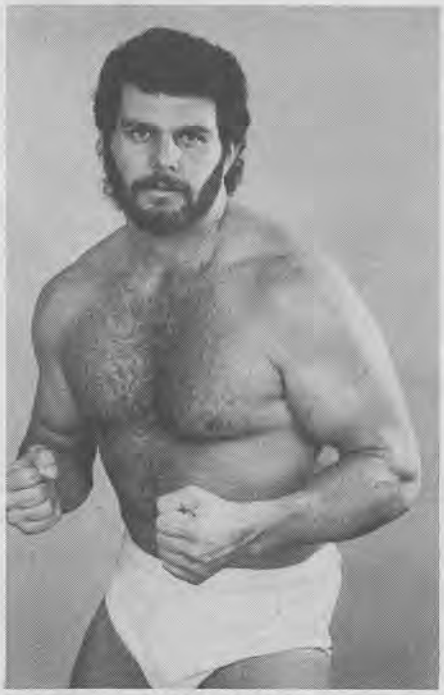
DALLAS, TX: Beauty and The Beast won the new World Class Texas tag team belts by defeating Chris Adams and Jeff Jarrett. As is so often the case in such matches, though, there was some controversy.

Adams had Beauty pinned, but referee Bronco Lubich had been diverted by The Beast. Manager Buddy Roberts then ran into the ring, hit Adams over the head with a foreign object, and turned both men over so that Beauty was on top. Lubich then returned to count the pin.

"I understand that a referee can't have eyes in back of his head, but I would expect that a World Class official who saw the match would see fit to reverse the decision," Adams said. "I've said it a million times and now I'm gonna say it again: They shouldn't allow managers at ringside for these matches. What purpose do they serve except to interfere?"

Roberts, however, denied any wrongdoing. "I just took advantage of the situation," he said. "Since when is that against the rules?"

In other World Class news, Gary Young won the Texas title by forfeit when champion Brickhouse Brown failed to appear for their March 5 match in San Antonio. Brown said he missed his transportation connection, but Young claimed that Brickhouse was scared to wrestle him.



GARY YOUNG

"I'm a member of Gen. Skandor Akbar's fearsome army and everybody's afraid of what's gonna happen when they step into the ring against me," Young said. "But that's okay. I'll take that belt anyway I can get it. If Brown don't want it, I'll take it. I would've gotten it anyway."

Brown has remained in the area and is the top contender for the Texas title.

—Andrew Ray □

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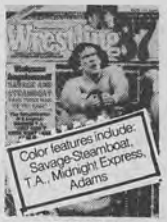

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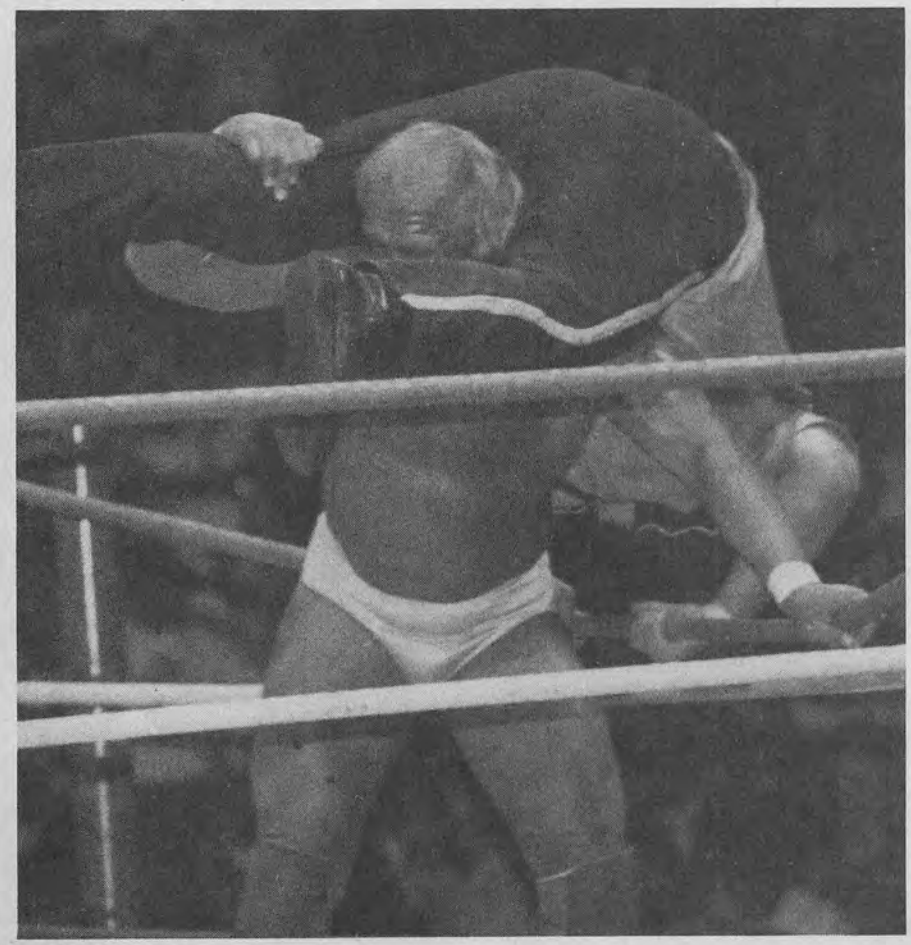
HULK HOGAN

(Continued from page 35)



Bossman holds the "Hulkster" for Akeem's punch (above). Hogan flips Bossman out of the ring (left). Hogan believes it's the Twin Towers' fault that he and Randy Savage had such a violent falling-out.

Pilliard said. "It's almost like saying that anyone in the vicinity of a crime is responsible for the crime. But remember, Hogan hasn't exactly acted rationally since it all happened. He can't believe Savage turned on him the way he did, and now he's looking for someone else to blame."

"This is not entirely uncommon," said psychologist Dr. Sydney M. Basil. "Mr. Hogan is going through a period of tremendous psychological stress over the loss of a good friend, and this is his way of easing the pain a bit. It is unfair to say he is wrong to do this, because it is a completely safe way for him to relieve the stress. If he wants to blame the Twin Towers for what Savage did, I don't see why it would hurt anyone."

Except the Twin Towers, of course. Prior to February 3, it wasn't uncommon for Big Bossman to score disqualification victories over Hogan. In fact, Bossman and Akeem had the upper hand on Hogan in their feud, having assaulted him on several occasions. Since then, however, it's been all Hogan.

How can one account for such a stunning turnaround? It's impossible to believe that Hogan suddenly discovered the key to beating Bossman and holding off attacks by these evil men. The fact is, the Twin Towers *as a team* have stood clear of the "Hulkster" since February 3, obviously realizing that he's no longer easy prey. He's a man on a rampage!

So what can we expect now? The first few weeks after WrestleMania are usually quiet. WWF officials wisely schedule a one- or two-week cooling-off period each year that allows the wrestlers to rest after a grueling pre-WrestleMania training schedule. Once things get going again, however, you'll probably see plenty of Hogan-Savage rematches, but also a heated feud between Hogan and the Twin Towers. Hogan has reportedly demanded it, and the Towers never back down.

Of course, it makes no sense. The Twin Towers should be worrying about World tag champs Demolition, not Hogan. And Hogan should come to his senses and realize that Savage, not the Towers, were responsible for a breakup that had been coming for several months. Losing a close friend is never easy, but when Hogan learns to deal with it, he'll be able to continue his career.

Right now, he's confused, stuck in a feud he doesn't want to be in, and trying to get revenge against a team that did nothing wrong.

The Twin Towers *will* pay for the Megapowers meltdown. So will Hogan.

That you can bet on. □

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ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

(Continued from page 37)

things haven't gone too well since then."

Morton and Gibson stayed together and went on their first world tour, which took them to the WWC, Continental, the CWA, and WOW. While in the CWA, they engaged in a hot feud with AWA World tag champs The Midnight Rockers and came very close to winning the belts (and probably would have if referee Jerry Calhoun hadn't been knocked out during a controversial match).

They were, however, able to win the World Organization Wrestling tag team championship,

Gibson executes a back-bridge pinning combination on Bob Bradley in Texas (top). Gibson wrestled there and Morton wrestled solo in the AWA, where he takes a shot from Pat Tanaka (above left). In the CWA, Morton readies a punch for Jerry Lawler, who's being held by Dutch Mantel (above right).

which led to one of the most disappointing losses of their careers. "Losing the WOW belts to Ron Starr and Bob Holly was a disgrace," Morton said. "Nothing against Starr and Holly, but they're just not the kind of team we should ever lose to. That was a low point." And it was only May.

June should have been kind to the Rock 'n' Rolls. A fan petition offered by *Inside Wrestling* led to their return to the NWA, but they were not exactly greeted back with open arms. The Fantastics had already arrived in the area and fans had warmed to this talented team. Even the Rock 'n' Rolls' most devoted fans were reluctant to devote themselves once again to Morton and Gibson. "What if they hurt us once again?" one said.

Which is exactly what happened. In August, the Rock 'n' Rolls announced that they had split up and Gibson had left the NWA. Then, in September, the Rock 'n' Rolls got back together again and began wrestling in Memphis. It was obvious, however, that the team had fallen off considerably in the space of only one year.

"When we got back to the NWA," Morton said, "we weren't getting any title shots at all, which we didn't think was right considering our past record. I was ready to stick it out for a while, but I understood why Robert wanted to leave. Then we both realized that we were better off as a team, although any place but the NWA."

Things have become even more complicated over the past six months. Morton and Gibson were unable to win the CWA belts and, in January, an incredible change overcame Morton. He

was chosen as special guest referee for a match between AWA World champion Jerry Lawler and Dutch Mantel, but, to the surprise of everyone, favored Mantel and almost cost Lawler the title.

Morton and Lawler engaged in a month-long feud before the situation got totally out of hand. On February 13 in Memphis, things reached an all-time low: Morton and Gibson were actually on opposite teams. Gibson teamed with Lawler against Morton and The Master of Pain, but by the time the night was over, Morton and Gibson had teamed up to attack Lawler.

In one fateful match, Morton and Gibson wrestled each other, but quickly got back together.

Since then, Morton has returned to the fans' good graces, but the Rock 'n' Rolls are no closer to winning a major title. Fortunately, the Rock 'n' Rolls are beginning to return to normal. But will they ever again be world champions? Has this year of turmoil taken too much out of them?

"I can't answer those questions," Gibson said. "All we can do is give it our best every time we step into the ring. Give us credit, though. We survived, we stuck together, even when we were apart. We always kept in touch and we got through the bad times, which is really the test of a great tag team. Now we're ready for the good times once again."□

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 18)

John Tolos slugs Porkchop Cash in the midsection. In 1974, during the course of their long feud, Cash defeated Tolos for the Americas title.

sylvania . . . Moondog Lonnie Mayne was knocked unconscious in two straight matches: one against Pat Patterson in San Francisco, and another against Rocky Johnson in Sacramento . . . Russian strongman Nikolai Volkoff took WWF champion Bruno Sammartino to a draw in their first encounter in Madison Square Garden in May. The two returned to that ring in June to face off in a Texas death match. A boisterous Garden crowd watched Sammartino defeat Volkoff to keep the belt . . . After losing a match against The Sheik in Toronto, The Crusader was unmasked as Dewey Robertson . . . John Tolos continued to feud with Porkchop Cash, the man who came out of the audience at Los Angeles' Olympic Auditorium to take his Americas title . . . Ripper Collins, losing a hair vs. hair match to Jimmy Snuka in Hawaii, had his golden locks shaved off in the middle of the ring.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Jack Brisco; 2—The Sheik; 3—Dory Funk Jr.; 4—Porkchop Cash; 5—John Tolos; 6—Terry Funk; 7—Buddy Colt; 8—Harley Race; 9—Pat Patterson; 10—Johnny Valentine.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Billy Robinson; 3—Billy Graham; 4—Crusher; 5—Wahoo McDaniel; 6—Ray Stevens; 7—Nick Bockwinkel; 8—Ivan Koloff; 9—Greg Gagne; 10—Chris Taylor.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Pedro Morales; 3—Chief Jay Strongbow; 4—Killer Kowalski; 5—Nikolai Volkoff; 6—Don Leo Jonathan; 7—Stan Stasiak; 8—Larry Hennig; 9—Tony Garea; 10—Dean Ho.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Kurt Von Hess & Karl Von Schotz; 2—Jimmy & Johnny Valiant; 3—Dean Ho & Tony Garea; 4—Ray Stevens & Nick Bockwinkel; 5—Goliath & Black Gordman; 6—Jose Lothario & Mil Mascaras; 7—The Fabulous Kangaroos; 8—Mr. Fuji & Prof. Toru Tanaka; 9—The Royal Kangaroos; 10—The Beast & Leo Burke.

MAY/JUNE 1979

AFTER A 10-YEAR retirement, former WWF and NWA champion "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers returned to the ring and announced his intention to campaign for the NWA World championship . . . The Grand Wizard acquired the contract of West Coast legend Pat Patterson . . . AWA World champion Nick Bockwinkel made a rare trip to the Mid-Atlantic area to defend his title against U.S. champion Rick Steamboat; Bockwinkel used a foreign object to defeat Steamboat and retain his belt . . . North American champion Mr. Wrestling II feuded with Killer Karl Krupp. In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, II managed to escape from Krupp's deadly clawhold and rallied to victory . . . Victor Rivera returned to the WWF, and fans were shocked to see him wrestling as a rulebreaker under the management of Fred Blassie . . . In Detroit, Randy Savage was feuding with Pampero Firpo . . . Bruiser Brody began advising David and Kevin Von Erich in their

(Continued on page 60)

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June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel. **Adonis & Ventura**, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo. **Steamboat & Rich**, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. **Rick Martel**, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff, **Tommy Rich**, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Tommy Rich**, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel,** Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine,** Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase,** Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant,** JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

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November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter,** Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors,** Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel,** Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes,** Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper,** Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A,** Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat,** Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair,** Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash,** Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan,** T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich,** Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter,** Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors,** Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan,** Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express,** Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage,** Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff,** Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs,** Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash. **Great American Bash,** Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper,** Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth. **UWF Tournament,** T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger. **Dusty & Nikita,** DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

MAY 1987

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams. **Andre-Hogan,** UWF Tourny, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan. **Magnum T.A.,** Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers. **Steamboat-Savage,** Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious. **Hogan-Andre,** Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase. **Ric Flair,** Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele. **Nikita Koloff,** Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors. **Ted DiBiase,** Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Randy Savage,** Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Lex Luger,** Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting. **Andre,** Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard. **Hulk Hogan,** Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig. **Hogan vs. Andre,** Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez. **Savage & Hogan,** Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

October 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior. **Sting,** Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express. **Hogan,** Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

December 1988/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Four Horsemen,** Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

January 1989/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth,** Warriors, Sting.

February 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jake Roberts. **Luger,** Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

April 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steiner. **Savage,** Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers.

May 1989/COLOR PINUP: Missy Hyatt. **Hogan,** Ultimate, Kerry, Luger, Steamboat, 10 stars in limbo.

June 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Hogan vs. Savage**, Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 58)

When Victor Rivera returned to the WWF in 1979, fans were shocked to see that he was being managed as a rulebreaker by Fred Blassie.

matches against Spoiler and Mark Lewin . . . Dusty Rhodes teamed with Mad Dog Vachon, once a bitter rival; their targets were Ole Anderson and Ivan Koloff . . . Killer Khan seriously injured Jack Brisco in a vicious sneak-attack in Florida . . . The Mid-Atlantic wrestling commission began an investigation of Ernie Ladd's "loaded thumb" . . . John Tolos and Akio Sato captured the Western States tag team title, but later lost it to Ricky Romero and Tachachio.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Harley Race; 2—Dusty Rhodes; 3—Ric Flair; 4—Mr. Wrestling II; 5—Masked Superstar; 6—Dick Murdoch; 7—Jim Garvin; 8—Rick Steamboat; 9—Mike Graham; 10—Ken Patera.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Billy Robinson; 3—Verne Gagne; 4—Jim Brunzell; 5—Greg Gagne; 6—Ray Stevens; 7—Pat Patterson; 8—Super Destroyer II; 9—Mighty Igor; 10—Larry Hennig.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bob Backlund; 2—Bulldog Brower; 3—Greg Valentine; 4—Iron Sheik; 5—Ivan Putski; 6—Ted DiBiase; 7—Peter Maivia; 8—Ivan Koloff; 9—Victor Rivera; 10—Steve Travis.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Jimmy & Johnny Valiant; 2—Paul Orndorff & Jimmy Snuka; 3—Ray Stevens & Pat Patterson; 4—Ken Patera & John Studd; 5—Ole Anderson & Ivan Putski; 6—Thor the Viking & Bugsy McGraw; 7—Mark Lewin & The Spoiler; 8—Mike Graham & Steve Keirn; 9—Eddy Mansfield & Leroy Brown; 10—Jerry Lawler & Robert Fuller.

MAY/JUNE 1984

IN ONE OF the most emotional moments in wrestling history, Kerry Von Erich pinned Ric Flair on May 6 to win the NWA World title in front of 43,517 fans at Texas Stadium. Kerry had dedicated the match to his brother David, who had died three months earlier. Eighteen days later, Flair regained the belt in Yokosuka City,

(Continued on page 62)

BACK ISSUES OF

VICTORY SPORTS SERIES

THE Wrestler

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October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyers.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors. Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.

April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.

June 1986/Stories include: Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.

October 1986/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.

November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.

December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.

March 1987/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.

April 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Rich-Lawler, R&R Express.

May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.

June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.

July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.

August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.

September 1987/Stories include: Koloffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.

October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.

November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.

December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.

January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.

February 1988/Stories include: Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.

March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.

April 1988/Special issue! Starrcade '87, Survivor Series, AWA & World Class. Also: Strike Force, Luger, Rockers.

May 1988/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.

June 1988/Stories include: Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.

July 1988/Stories include: Fantastics, Hogan, Windham, McMahon, Rich.

August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Windham-Luger split, Demolition, Lawler, Ellering.

September 1988/Stories include: Duggan vs. Andre, Hogan, Windham.

October 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Fantastics, Hennig, Roberts-Rude.

November 1988/Stories include: Midnight Ex., DiBiase, Bossman, Brody.

January 1989/Stories include: Kevin Von, Rougeaus, Horsemen, Hogan.

February 1989/Stories include: Warriors, Ultimate-Hogan, Bigelow-Gordy.

March 1989/Stories include: Jarrett, Flair, Jake-Andre, Bigelow-Windham.

April 1989/Stories include: Bulldogs, Warriors, Andre, Hogan-Savage.

May 1989/Stories include: Steamboat, Savage-Hogan, Dusty, Valentine.

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 60)

Kerry Von Erich sunset-flips Ric Flair to capture the NWA World title.

Japan . . . On May 13, Rick Martel captured the AWA World championship from Jumbo Tsuruta in St. Paul, Minnesota . . . In separate incidents, Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell were both injured by Bruiser Brody, who acted on the instructions of Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie. Gagne suffered a hairline fracture of the leg and Brunzell suffered a severe groin injury . . . Just one day after King Kong Bundy and Masked Superstar upset The Road Warriors to win the National tag team title, Superstar was attacked by a mysterious assailant, injuring him, and forcing him and Bundy to vacate the title. Two weeks later, the Warriors won back the belts in a tournament . . . The NWA sponsored its first card of wrestling in the New York area in nearly 20 years on May 29 at the Meadowlands Arena in New Jersey. The "Night of Champions" was highlighted by a sensational World title match in which Ric Flair defeated Rick Steamboat . . . The U.S. title was held up after Wahoo McDaniel defeated Steamboat due to

Wahoo McDaniel chinlocks Rick Steamboat. The U.S. title Wahoo won from Steamboat in 1984 was held up.

Tully Blanchard's interference . . . Promoter Vince McMahon Sr., father of WWF head Vince McMahon, died in Florida at age 69.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Ric Flair; 2—Wahoo McDaniel; 3—Brad Armstrong; 4—Harley Race; 5—Angelo Mosca; 6—Kerry Von Erich; 7—Angelo Mosca Jr.; 8—Superstar Graham; 9—Carlos Colon; 10—Gino Hernandez.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Rick Martel; 2—Nick Bockwinkel; 3—Blackjack Lanza; 4—Abdullah the Butcher; 5—Bruiser Brody; 6—Jumbo Tsuruta; 7—Jerry Lawler; 8—Larry Zbyszko; 9—Greg Gagne; 10—Billy Robinson.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Hulk Hogan; 2—Tito Santana; 3—Greg Valentine; 4—Bob Backlund; 5—Sgt. Slaughter; 6—Bob Orton; 7—David Shultz; 8—Jimmy Snuka; 9—Paul Orndorff; 10—The Iron Sheik.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Ivan Koloff & Don Kernodle; 2—Baron Von Raschke & Crusher; 3—The Road Warriors; 4—Michael Hayes & Terry Gordy; 5—Dick Murdoch & Adrian Adonis; 6—Barry Windham & Mike Rotundo; 7—Iceman Parsons & Buck Zumhofe; 8—Tommy Rich & Eddie Gilbert; 9—Dennis Condrey & Bobby Eaton; 10—Steve Keirn & Stan Lane. ☐

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September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.
February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.
April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.
May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.
June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.
August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.
September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.
November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.
January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.
April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.
May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.
June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.
September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.
January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humperdink.
February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.
March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.
April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.
May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.
June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.
July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.
August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.
September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.
October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.
November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.
December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.
March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.
April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.
May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.
June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.
July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.
August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.
September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.
October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.
November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.
December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.
March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.
April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.
May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.
June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.
July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.
August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.
September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.
October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.
November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.
December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.
January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.
February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.
March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.
April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.
June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.
July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.
August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.
September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.
October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.
November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.
December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.
January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.
February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.
March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.
April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts
May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.
June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.
July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.
August 1986/Stories include: WrestleMania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.
September 1986/Stories include: Andre,Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.
October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.
November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.
December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.
February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.
March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.
April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.
May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.

June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.
July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.
August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.
September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.
October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.
November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.
December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.
January 1988/Stories include: R&R-Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.
February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.
March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.
April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-DiBiase.
May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.
June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.
July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.
August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.
September 1988/SPECIAL ISSUE: Color coverage of WMIV, Parade of Champs, Crockett Cup. Plus: Lawler, Von Erich, Hart, Cornette.
October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.
November 1988/Stories include: Kerry vs. Lawler, Windham, Luger, Muraco.
December 1988/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper.
January 1989/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Sting, Arn, Kerry-Lawler.
February 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Bossman, Tully & Arn, Warriors-Windham-Sting.
March 1989/Stories include: Hennig, Midnights-Midnights, Fuller & Golden, Ultimate.
May 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Steiner, Morton, Bad Co., Taylor.

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SPORTS REVIEW

Wrestling

The Ultimate Warrior

TOP10

1. **RANDY SAVAGE**
   245, Sarasota, FL
   WWF World champion
2. **RICK STEAMBOAT**
   238, Honolulu, HI
   NWA World champion
3. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   No. 2 contender: NWA title
4. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   No. 2 contender: WWF title
5. **LEX LUGER**
   268, Chicago, IL
   U.S. heavyweight champion
6. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
   280, Queens, NY
   WWF Intercontinental champion
7. **BARRY WINDHAM**
   263, Sweetwater, TX
   No. 1 contender: U.S. title
8. **STING**
   260, Venice Beach, CA
   No. 3 contender: NWA title
9. **LARRY ZBYSZKO**
   248, Pittsburgh, PA
   AWA World champion
10. **JERRY LAWLER**
    234, Memphis, TN
    World Class champion

TAG TEAMS

1. **THE ROAD WARRIORS**
   Combined weight: 567 pounds
   NWA World tag team champions
2. **DEMOLITION**
   Combined weight: 585 pounds
   WWF World tag team champions
3. **WARLORD & BARBARIAN**
   Combined weight: 655 pounds
   No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
4. **STAN LANE & BOBBY EATON**
   Combined weight: 462 pounds
   No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title
5. **PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND**
   Combined weight: 456 pounds
   AWA World tag team champions
6. **ROBERT FULLER & JIMMY GOLDEN**
   Combined weight: 473 pounds
   CWA & WCCW tag team champions
7. **RICK STEINER & EDDIE GILBERT**
   Combined weight: 470 pounds
   U.S. tag team champions
8. **THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM**
   Combined weight: 510 pounds
   No. 4 contenders: NWA tag team title
9. **TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
   Combined weight: 484 pounds
   No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
10. **KEVIN SULLIVAN & MIKE ROTUNDO**
    Combined weight: 497 pounds
    No. 3 contenders: NWA tag team title

NWA

World Champion:
RICK STEAMBOAT
238, Honolulu, HI

1. **LEX LUGER** *268, Chicago, IL*
2. **RIC FLAIR** *243, Minneapolis, MN*
3. **BARRY WINDHAM** *263, Sweetwater, TX*
4. **STING** *260, Venice Beach, CA*
5. **MIKE ROTUNDO** *245, Syracuse, NY*
6. **RICK STEINER** *248, Detroit, MI*
7. **JUNKYARD DOG** *305, Charlotte, NC*
8. **BUTCH REED** *265, Kansas City, MO*
9. **ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER** *360, Khartoum, Sudan*
10. **MICHAEL HAYES** *255, Marietta, GA*

WWF

World Champion:
RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL

1. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR** *280, Queens, NY*
2. **HULK HOGAN** *302, Venice Beach, CA*
3. **BIG BOSSMAN** *348, Cobb County, GA*
4. **BAD NEWS BROWN** *280, New York, NY*
5. **TED DiBIASE** *247, Omaha, NB*
6. **AKEEM** *468, Chicago, IL*
7. **ANDRE THE GIANT** *497, Grenoble, France*
8. **HACKSAW DUGGAN** *280, Glens Falls, NY*
9. **CURT HENNIG** *235, Minneapolis, MN*
10. **RICK RUDE** *246, Robbinsdale, MN*

AWA

World Champion:
LARRY ZBYSZKO
248, Pittsburgh, PA

1. **GREG GAGNE** *220, Robbinsdale, MN*
2. **SGT. SLAUGHTER** *310, Parris Island, SC*
3. **TOM ZENK** *237, Minneapolis, MN*
4. **MANNY FERNANDEZ** *245, El Paso, TX*
5. **WAHOO McDANIEL** *280, Midland, TX*
6. **KEN PATERA** *256, Portland, Or*
7. **COL. DeBEERS** *248, Cape Town, South Africa*
8. **DERRICK DUKES** *232, Boston, MA*
9. **MANDO GUERRERO** *234, Tokyo, Japan*
10. **SHANE DOUGLAS** *265, St. Joseph, MO*

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN

1. **GARY YOUNG** *240, Houston, TX*
2. **KERRY VON ERICH** *260, Denton, TX*
3. **ERIC EMBRY** *225, Lexington, KY*
4. **BRICKHOUSE BROWN** *225, Winter Haven, FL*
5. **JEFF JARRETT** *200, Hendersonville, TN*
6. **KEVIN VON ERICH** *235, Denton, TX*
7. **CACTUS JACK** *242, Truth or Consequences, N*
8. **JIMMY JACK FUNK** *243, Portland, OR*
9. **SUPER BLACK NINJA** *245, Tokyo, Japan*
10. **CHRIS ADAMS** *228, Stratford, England*

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

For period ended March 10, 1989

MOST POPULAR

1. **HULK HOGAN**
   302, Venice Beach, CA
   Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
2. **RICK STEAMBOAT**
   238, Honolulu, HI
   Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
3. **THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
   280, Queens, NY
   Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
4. **STING**
   260, Venice Beach, CA
   Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
5. **LEX LUGER**
   268, Chicago, IL
   Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
6. **RICK STEINER**
   248, Detroit, MI
   Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
7. **JAKE ROBERTS**
   246, Stone Mountain, GA
   Last month: unrated
8. **MICHAEL HAYES**
   255, Marietta, GA
   Last month: unrated
9. **JEFF JARRETT**
   200, Hendersonville, TN
   Last month: unrated
10. **DUSTY RHODES**
    302, Austin, TX
    Last month: No. 8 Most Popular

MOST HATED

1. **RANDY SAVAGE**
   245, Sarasota, FL
   Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
2. **RIC FLAIR**
   243, Minneapolis, MN
   Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
3. **BIG BOSSMAN**
   348, Cobb County, GA
   Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
4. **BARRY WINDHAM**
   263, Sweetwater, TX
   Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
5. **AKEEM**
   468, Chicago, IL
   Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
6. **ANDRE THE GIANT**
   497, Grenoble, France
   Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
7. **MIKE ROTUNDO**
   245, Syracuse, NY
   Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
8. **RICK RUDE**
   246, Robbinsdale, MN
   Last month: unrated
9. **LARRY ZBYSZKO**
   248, Pittsburgh, PA
   Last month: No. 9 Most Hated
10. **KEVIN SULLIVAN**
    252, Boston, MA
    Last month: unrated

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—RANDY SAVAGE ..... 99 points
2—RIC FLAIR ..... 89 points
3—JERRY LAWLER ..... 71 points
4—LEX LUGER ..... 58 points
5—BARRY WINDHAM ..... 42 points

TAG TEAMS

1—THE ROAD WARRIORS ..... 92 points
2—DEMOLITION ..... 87 points
3—BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE ..... 76 points
4—PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND ..... 60 points
5—FANTASTICS/WARLORD & BARBARIAN ... 43 points

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
TITLE VACANT
(See "Ratings Analysis")

1. **CHRIS BENOIT**
   218, Edmonton, Alberta
2. **LARRY CAMERON**
   280, Chicago
3. **JOHNNY SMITH**
   235, Manchester, England
4. **DON MURACO**
   274, Sunset Beach, HI
5. **DYNAMITE KID**
   228, Manchester, England
6. **MAKHAN SINGH**
   380, Saginaw, MI
7. **DAVEY BOY SMITH**
   245, Leeds, England
8. **BRIAN PILLMAN**
   226, Cincinnati, OH
9. **GAMA SINGH**
   220, Karachi, Pakistan
10. **BRUCE HART**
    211, Calgary, Alberta

CWA

CWA Champion:
DUTCH MANTEL
224, Oil Trough, TX

1. **JERRY LAWLER**
   234, Memphis, TN
2. **JEFF JARRETT**
   200, Hendersonville, TN
3. **RICK MORTON**
   228, Memphis, TN
4. **BILL DUNDEE**
   214, Melbourne, Australia
5. **JIMMY VALIANT**
   251, New York, NY
6. **BUDDY LANDELL**
   236, Los Angeles, CA
7. **FRANK LANCASTER**
   239, Atlanta, GA
8. **KEN WAYNE**
   208, Memphis, TN
9. **PHIL HICKERSON**
   285, Jackson, TN
10. **THE MASTER OF PAIN**
    320, parts unknown

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:
TOM PRICHARD
220, Houston, TX

1. **DAN DAVIS**
   238, Nashville, TN
2. **MOONDOG SPOT**
   303, parts unknown
3. **TERRY GORDY**
   289, Chattanooga, TN
4. **BILL DUNDEE**
   214, Melbourne, AUS
5. **KOKINA**
   340, Samoa
6. **TONY ANTHONY**
   235, Bucksnorth, TN
7. **DOUG FURNAS**
   265, Commerce, OK
8. **WILLIE B. HERT**
   238, El Paso, TX
9. **RON FULLER**
   235, Dyresburg, TN
10. **BRAD ANDERSON**
    225, Charlotte, NC

ICW

ICW Champion:
TONY ATLAS
247, Roanoke, VA

1. **IVAN PUTSKI**
   242, Krakow, Poland
2. **DON MURACO**
   274, Sunset Beach, HI
3. **JOE SAVOLDI**
   220, Parsippany, NJ
4. **VIC STEAMBOAT**
   235, Honolulu, HI
5. **LANCE VON ERICH**
   260, Arlington, TX
6. **SCOTT PUTSKI**
   230, Austin, TX
7. **TOM BRANDI**
   231, Philadelphia, PA
8. **TOMMY RICH**
   248, Hendersonville, TN
9. **JERRY BLACKWELL**
   474, Stone Mountain, GA
10. **ROBBIE ELLIS**
    200, Portland, ME

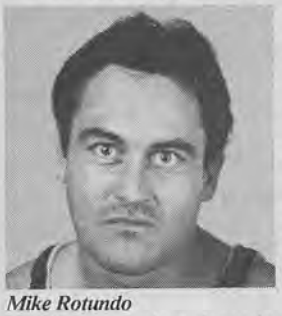
RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 135 wrestlers in 12 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Title vacant! Due to his failure to defend the Stampede North American title once in the required 30-day period, **Don Muraco** has been stripped of the belt. A tournament will be held shortly in Calgary to determine a new champion and Muraco is entered, along with seven-time former NWA World champ **Harley Race**. Muraco had won the title from **Makhan Singh** on December 9.

Tracking Trends. A host of title changes in the NWA meant big changes in our Top 10 and NWA ratings this month.

New NWA World champion **Rick Steamboat** moves in at number two in the Top 10 off his victory over **Ric Flair** at the Chi-Town Rumble on February 20 . . . **Lex Luger** won the U.S. title from **Barry Windham** and jumps four spots to number five in the Top 10 and up to number one in the NWA . . . **Mike Rotundo** regained the TV title from **Rick Steiner** to move up three notches in the NWA ratings to number five . . . Flair, meanwhile, drops one notch to number three in the Top 10, Windham drops three spots to number seven, and Steiner falls from four to six in the NWA . . . The other big NWA move concerns **Eddie Gilbert**, who is no longer considered a contender for the World title and drops out of the ratings. He's replaced by **Abdullah the Butcher** at number nine. Abdullah is scheduled to go after Luger's U.S. belt.



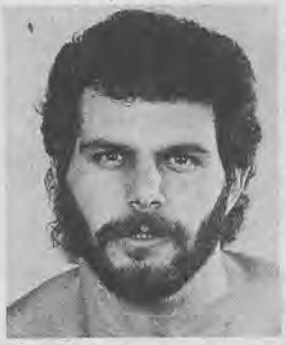
Mike Rotundo

World Class champ **Jerry Lawler** took a big drop in the Top 10, down four spots to number 10. This marks the first time in the past 10 months that Lawler has been below number four . . . **The Ultimate Warrior**, meanwhile, continues to climb in the Top 10; the WWF Intercontinental champion, quickly gaining respect, moves up two spots to number six . . . **Larry Zbyszko** won the AWA World championship and enters the Top 10 at number nine.

Steiner and Gilbert won the U.S. tag belts from **Kevin Sullivan** and **Steve Williams** on February 28, so they move all the way up to number seven in the tag ratings. Sullivan and Williams drop four spots to number 10 . . . **The Road Warriors** are number one for the fifth straight month . . . **Dennis Condrey** and **Randy Rose** are no longer a tag team, so they're out . . . **Robert Fuller** and **Jimmy Golden** won the World Class tag belts to go along with their CWA championship; they move up three notches to number six.

As is usually the case in the WWF before WrestleMania, there's little movement. **Hulk Hogan** is now the top contender to the World title and stays at number two (behind automatic number-one contender, I-C champ Ultimate Warrior). **Ted DiBiase**, however, has shot back into the national spotlight with his claim to be champion and is all the way up to number five.

Kerry Von Erich is no longer a contender for the AWA World title since Lawler is no longer champion. New champ Zbyszko has yet to say whether he'll defend his title in other federations . . . **Don Muraco** is back contending for the vacant Stampede belt . . . **Ken Patera** has arrived in the AWA and figures to make a run at Zbyszko; he's up two spots to number six . . . **Derrick Dukes** is seeing singles action and moves in at number eight.



Gary Young

Gary Young won the World Class Texas title when **Brickhouse Brown** failed to appear for a match and moves up nine spots to number one. Brown, who had won the belt from **Iceman Parsons**, drops to number four. Parsons has left the area . . . **Dynamite Kid** and **Davey Boy Smith**, a.k.a. **The British Bulldogs**, are also wrestling individually in Stampede . . . **Brian Pillman** and **Bruce Hart**, a.k.a. **Bad Company**, are also in singles competition . . . **Moondog Spot** nearly beat **Tom Prichard** for the Continental title and is moved up a spot to number two . . . Also in Continental, **Bill Dundee** is the top contender to **Dan Davis'** junior heavyweight title and moves in at number four.

Encore! Encore! For the second time, the ICW takes center stage in our revolving ratings category. International Championship Wrestling runs cards throughout the country, including Canada, most of New England, New Jersey, New York, Arizona, and Florida. The champion is **Tony Atlas**, and he's receiving serious competition, including a challenge from **Ivan Putski**. Several other top wrestlers have invaded the area, including **Don Muraco**, **Tommy Rich**, and **Jerry "Crusher" Blackwell**.

Farewell for now! But we'll be back next month with more Tracking Trends, another revolving ratings category, and other surprises. Meanwhile, we'd like to hear what's on your mind. Send your comments to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o *Sports Review Wrestling;* Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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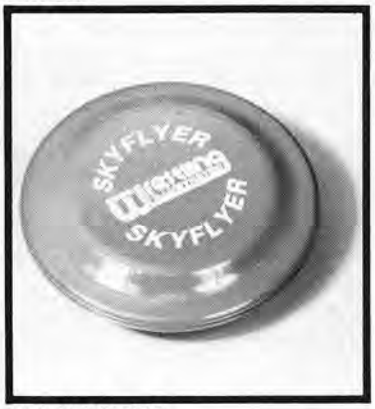

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